



12¢

FEB.
NO. 52



HOUSE of SECRETS

*"The
GUARDIAN
LION-MAN!"*

IT'S THE LION-MAN THAT GUARDS THE TREASURES OF SAN MORRO! BUT YOUR MAGIC POWERS, MARK MERLIN, WILL STILL HELP ME GET AWAY WITH THESE CROWN JEWELS!



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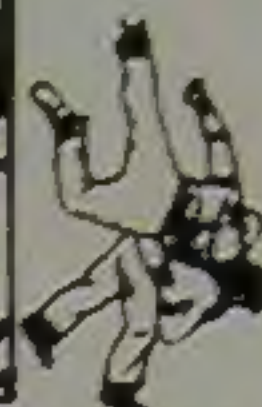
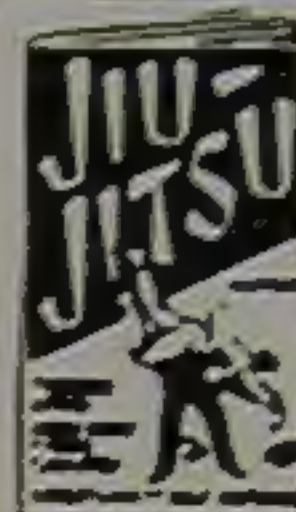
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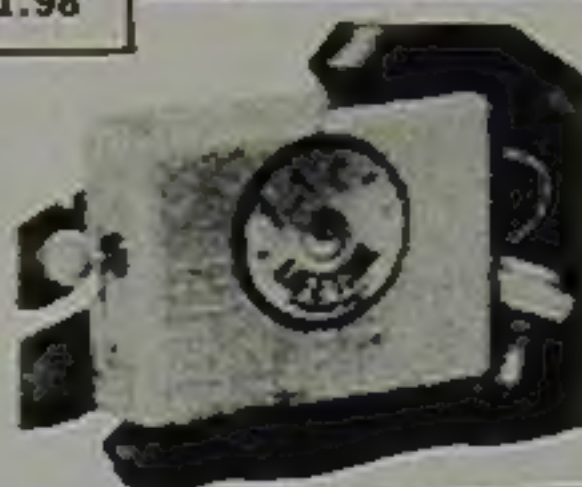
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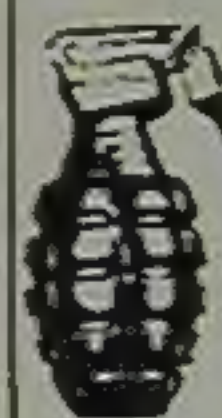
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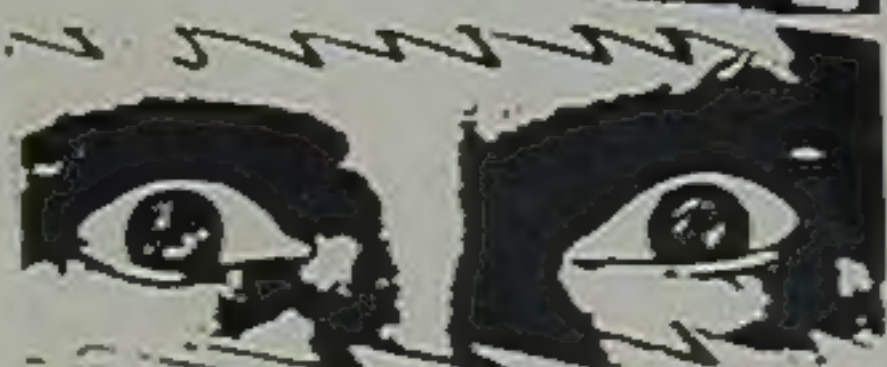
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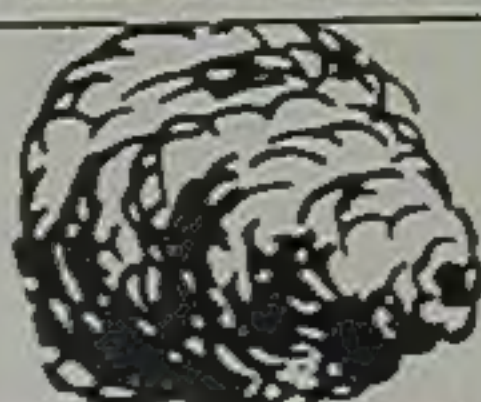
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IT ALL STARTED OUT AS A HARMLESS HUNTING TRIP FOR ME -- BUT ENDED WITH ME BECOMING THE HUNTED, WHEN I STUMBLED INTO ...

THE ALIEN TRAP THAT BACKFIRED!



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HOUSE OF SECRETS



I WAS ON MY WAY TO HIGH POINT MOUNTAIN, TO JOIN MY COLLEGE CHUMS, DICK MARCH AND PETE MILLS, FOR TWO WEEKS OF MOUNTAIN-LION HUNTING...

THE FELLOWS SAID THEY'D MAKE CAMP A MILE NORTH OF TWIN OAKS RIDGE. I SHOULD BE SIGHTING 'EM ANY MOMENT.

JUST THEN...

GOOD GRIEF! HIDDEN IN THAT GROVE... A--A SPACESHIP!

I WENT THE REST OF THE WAY AT FULL GALLOP, UNTIL...

PETE! DICK! THERE'S AN ALIEN CRAFT--HIDDEN IN THE GROVE BELOW! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT FROM THAT LEDGE! COME ON!

BUT...

THE GROVE IS EMPTY! SURE YOU'RE NOT SUFFERING FROM HALLUCINATIONS, PAL?

IT IS GONE, B-BUT... I SAW IT, I TELL YOU!

RELAX, BUDDY... NOW LET'S TURN IN, SO WE CAN MAKE AN EARLY START IN THE MORNING!

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!

HOURS AFTER DARK, I WAS STILL AWAKE AND PUZZLED--SO, AFTER SLIPPING OUT OF CAMP, I STOLE BACK TO THE GROVE, WHERE...

THESE DEEP TRACKS PROVE I WASN'T HAVING HALLUCINATIONS! THERE WAS A SPACESHIP HERE--AND WHAT'S MORE, THE GUYS MUST'VE SEEN IT FROM WHERE THEY WERE! WHY'D THEY LIE TO ME?



HOUSE OF SECRETS



BACK TO CAMP I WENT, WHERE I MADE MY SECOND SURPRISING DISCOVERY...

THEIR SLEEPING BAGS--STUFFED WITH RAGS TO GIVE THE **IMPRESSION** THEY'RE INSIDE!... WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?



I COMBED THE ENTIRE AREA--AND JUST AT DAWN, ON A PLATEAU HIGH ABOVE OUR CAMP, I GOT THE SHOCK OF MY LIFE...

GREAT THUNDER! TH-THEY'RE REALLY **ALIENS**, WHO WERE WEARING DISGUISES! AND THAT SPACESHIP I SAW WAS THEIRS! THEY MUST'VE MOVED IT BY REMOTE CONTROL!



WHAT'VE THEY DONE TO DICK AND PETE? AND WHAT'S THAT MACHINE THEY'RE WORKING ON?... I'M SURE THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD! IF--IF ONLY I'D BROUGHT MY RIFLE UP HERE!

WAIT!... THERE'S A RAY GUN ON THE GROUND NEAR THEM...AND THESE PEBBLES SHOULD COME IN HANDY!



I FLUNG THE PEBBLES TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MESA--AND WHEN THE ALIENS WENT TO INVESTIGATE THE SOUND, I MOVED INTO ACTION...



AS THEY WHIRLED ABOUT...

GOT 'EM!

PSSSSST!





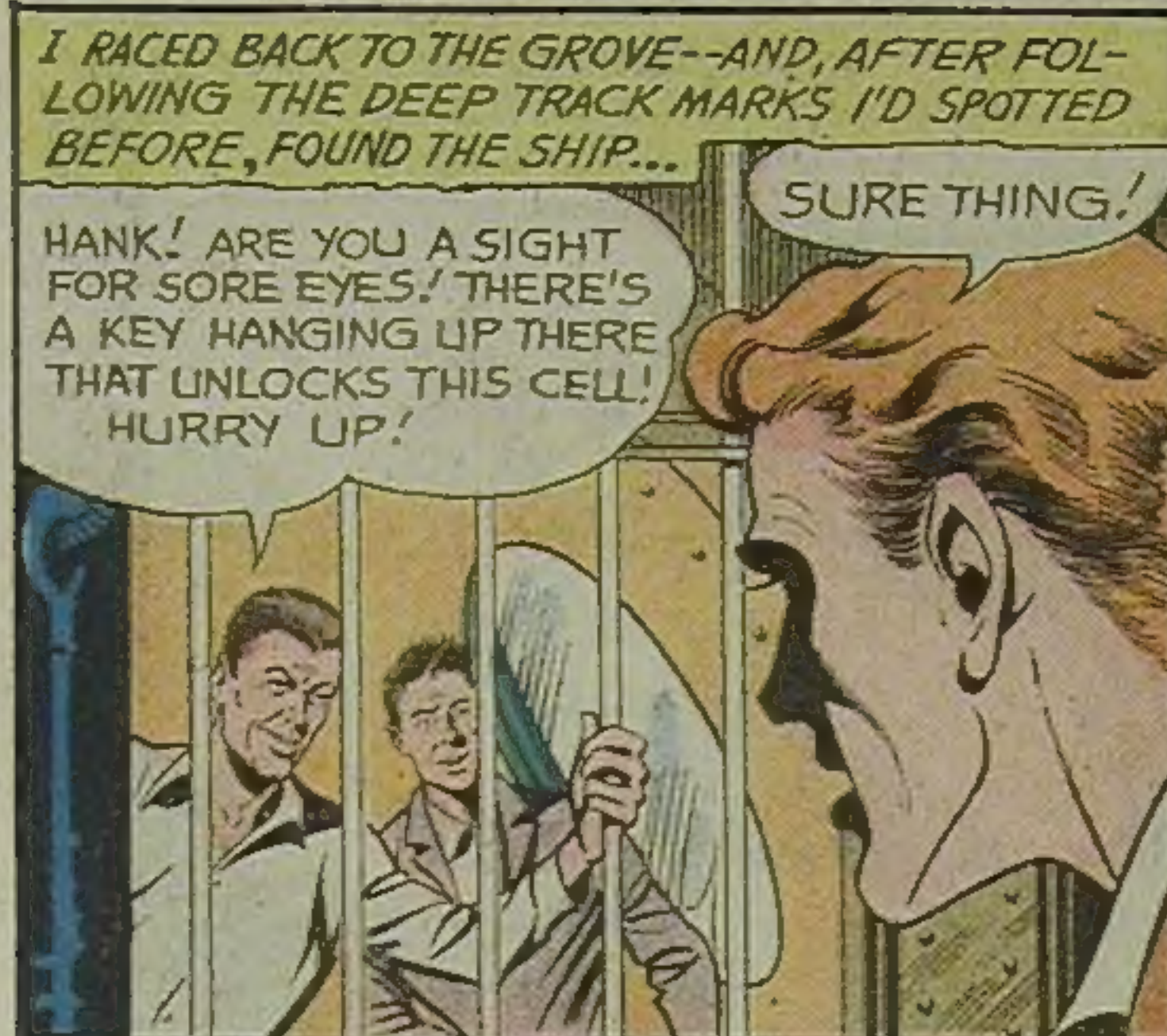
HOUSE OF SECRETS



MUST BE A STUN-GUN OR SOMETHING... THEY'RE ONLY KNOCKED OUT.



CURIOUS...THE LENS IN THEIR GLASSES FILTERS OUT MOST OF THE LIGHT! WELL-I MUSTN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME... GOT TO FIND PETE AND DICK!



I RACED BACK TO THE GROVE--AND, AFTER FOLLOWING THE DEEP TRACK MARKS I'D SPOTTED BEFORE, FOUND THE SHIP...

HANK! ARE YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES! THERE'S A KEY HANGING UP THERE THAT UNLOCKS THIS CELL! HURRY UP!

SURE THING!



BUT PETE AND DICK WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO EMERGE FROM THE CELL...

HUH? ANOTHER ALIEN!

RIGHT--BUT THIS ONE'S OUR PAL! IN FACT, VEEB GAVE US A CHEST, FILLED WITH PURE RADIUM, FOR HELPING HIM.



HELPING HIM DO WHAT?

PUT TOGETHER A BIG PORTABLE BEACON, DESIGNED TO SAFELY LAND A GIANT SPACESHIP CONTAINING HIS PALS! VEEB, HERE, CHUTED TO EARTH FIRST, WITH THE DISASSEMBLED BEACON!



BUT--YOU GUYS HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT ON YOUR OWN! YOU'VE GOT TO CHECK IT OUT WITH THE AUTHORITIES FIRST!

GOSH--WE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT! MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



AND THEN,
SUDDENLY...



THE ENEMY SPACESHIP,
WAITING FOR VEEB TO TURN
ON THE BEACON--TO GIVE
'EM A SAFE LANDING!
BUT WAIT... ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS ROLL THE
BEACON OVER THE CLIFF
AND THEY WON'T BE
ABLE TO LAND!

NEXT INSTANT, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A RAY GUN IN
MY RIBS...



NO, YOU
DON'T!

OH-H... TOO
LATE!

YOUR FRIENDS WERE
EASY TO KNOCK OUT!
YOU WILL BE EASIER
STILL!

SURE... AND AFTER
THAT, HE'LL TURN
ON THE BEACON--
AND LEAD HIS
BUDDIES DOWN!

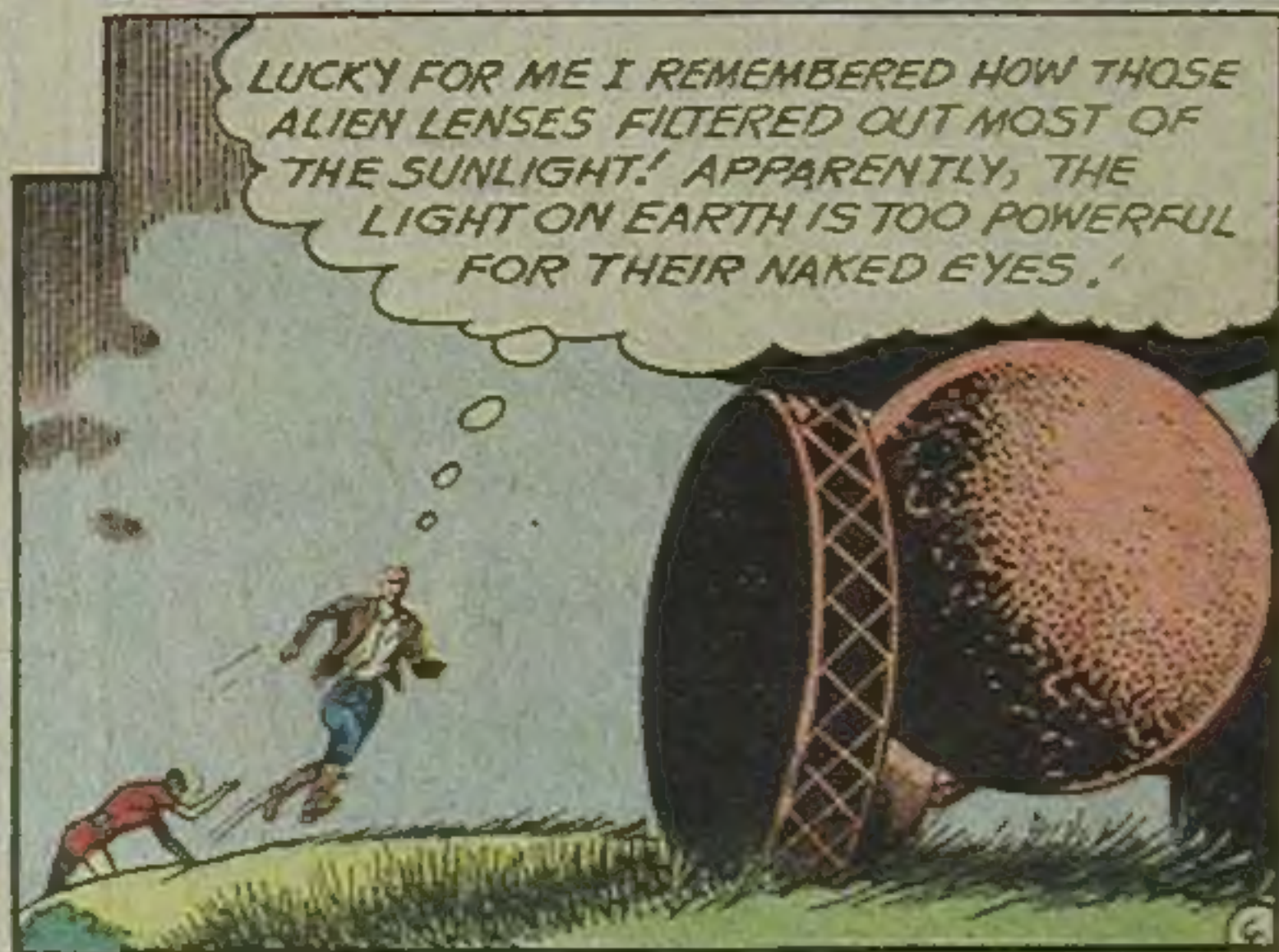


I COULD ALMOST FEEL THE PRESSURE OF HIS
FINGER ON THE TRIGGER...AND THAT'S WHEN I
SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING! I
WHIRLED LIKE LIGHTNING, AND...



MY GLASSES!

LUCKY FOR ME I REMEMBERED HOW THOSE
ALIEN LENSES FILTERED OUT MOST OF
THE SUNLIGHT! APPARENTLY, THE
LIGHT ON EARTH IS TOO POWERFUL
FOR THEIR NAKED EYES!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



AND WHILE VEEB SCRAMBLED ABOUT,
HUNTING FOR HIS GLASSES...

GOT A BETTER IDEA FOR THIS
BEACON-- IF I CAN GET IT
ROLLING!

IT WAS THE WILDEST RIDE I'D EVER BEEN ON...

I COULD SMASH
THIS BEACON-- BUT
VEEB COULD
PROBABLY SEND
FOR A SPARE
ONE-- SO...

I SKIDDED
TO A STOP
MINUTES
LATER, AND...

THE ALIENS IN THE SHIP, FIGURING IT WAS SAFE,
FOLLOWED THE BEAM DOWN, UNTIL...

NOW TO
TURN ON
THE BEAM!

CRASH!

IT
WORKED!

NOW TO GET
BACK AND SEE
WHAT HAPPENED TO
PETE AND DICK!



AS I EMERGED FROM THE CHASM...

OH-OH... I SEE
YOU FOUND YOUR
GLASSES!

NO TRICKS WILL SAVE
YOU THIS TIME,
EARTHLING!

BUT I GOT UNEXPECTED HELP...

PSSST!

I'M SURE GLAD
YOU RECOVERED
IN TIME!

SORRY WE DID NOT TRUST
ED YOU--BUT WE THOUGHT YOU
WERE HELPING VEEB, AS
YOUR FRIENDS DID. INCIDENT-
ALLY, THEY HAVE RECOVERED
FROM THE STUN-GUN BLASTS,
TOO!

LATER, AS WE WATCHED THE SHIP BLAST OFF...

SAY-- HOW ABOUT
THAT HUNTING
WE CAME HERE
TO DO?

FORGET IT! LION-
HUNTING IS BOUND TO
BE PRETTY TAME,
AFTER ALL THAT
ALIEN-HUNTING WE
DID!

The
End

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**"BATMAN,
INDIAN CHIEF!"**

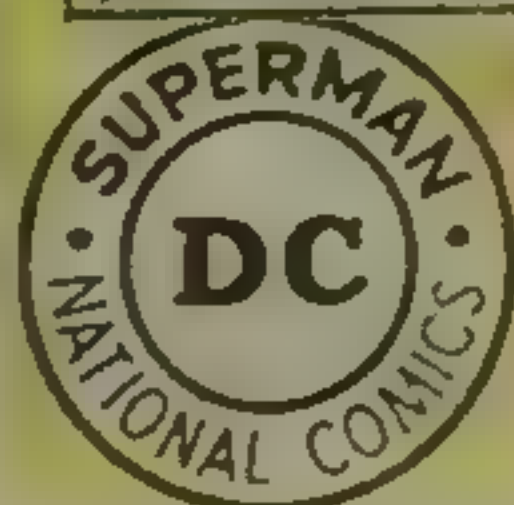
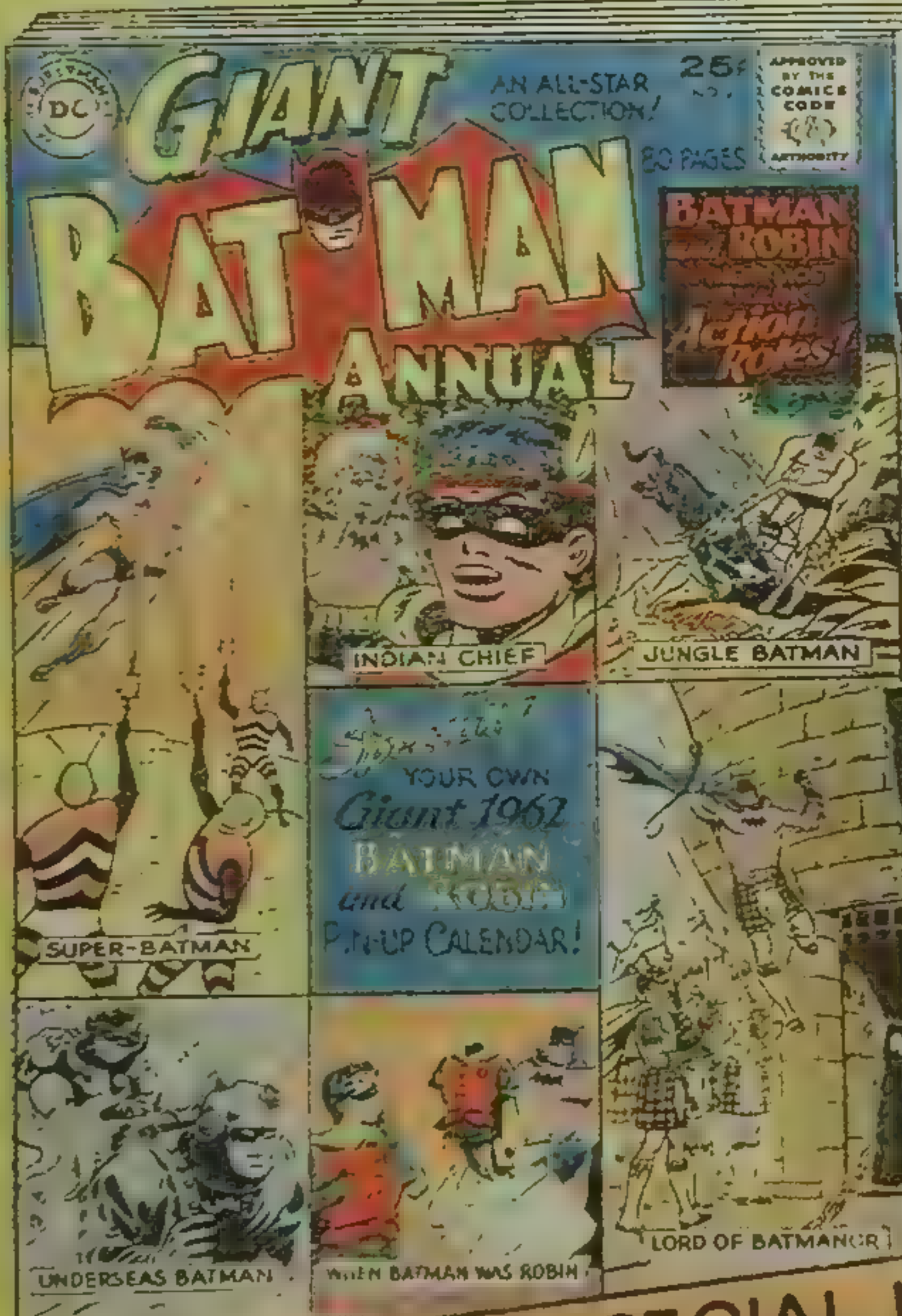
**"WHEN BATMAN
WAS ROBIN!"**

**"The UNDERSEAS
BATMAN!"**

**"BATMAN,
MAGICIAN!"**

**"The LORD of
BATMANOR!"**

**"BATMAN, SUPERMAN
of PLANET X!"**

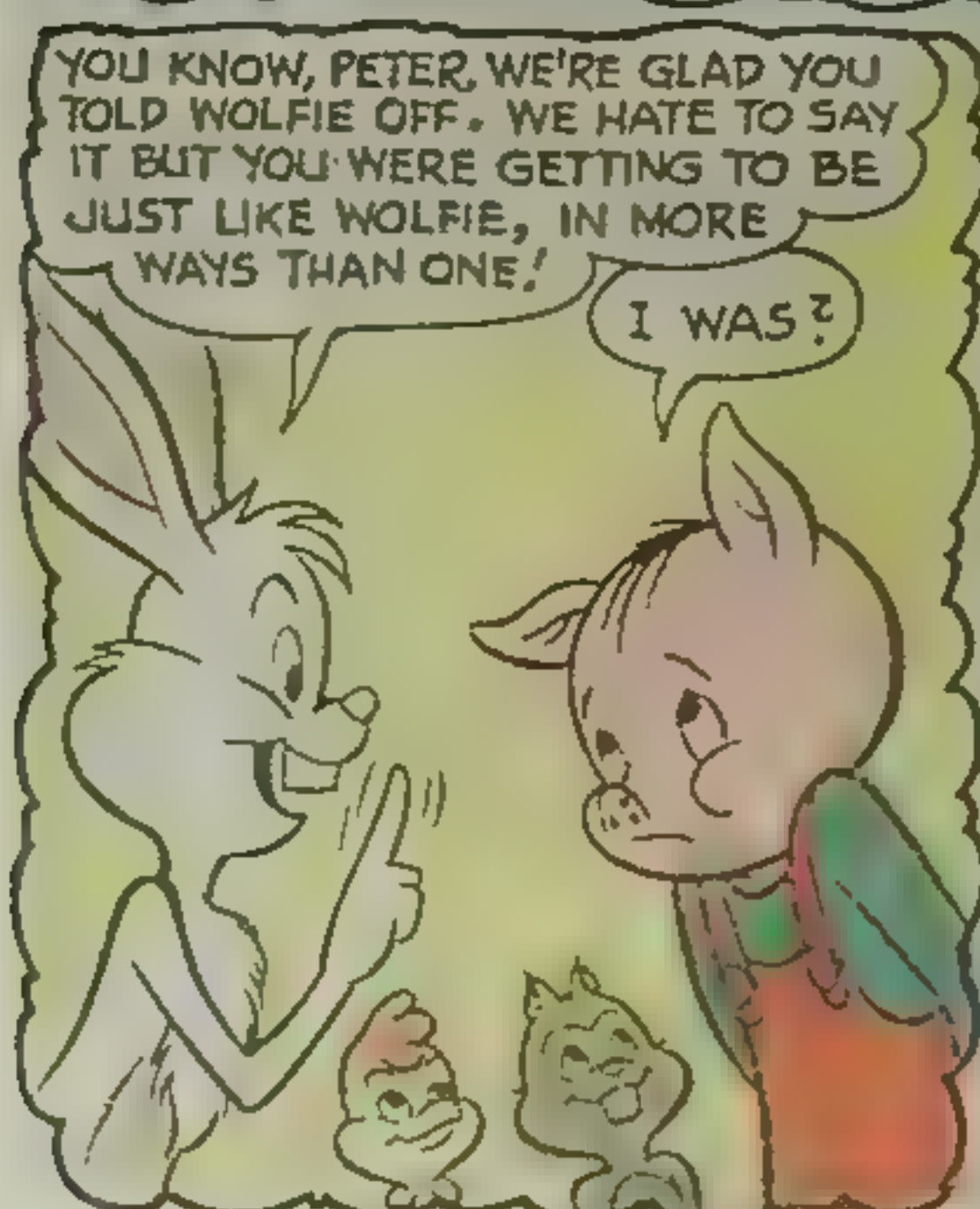
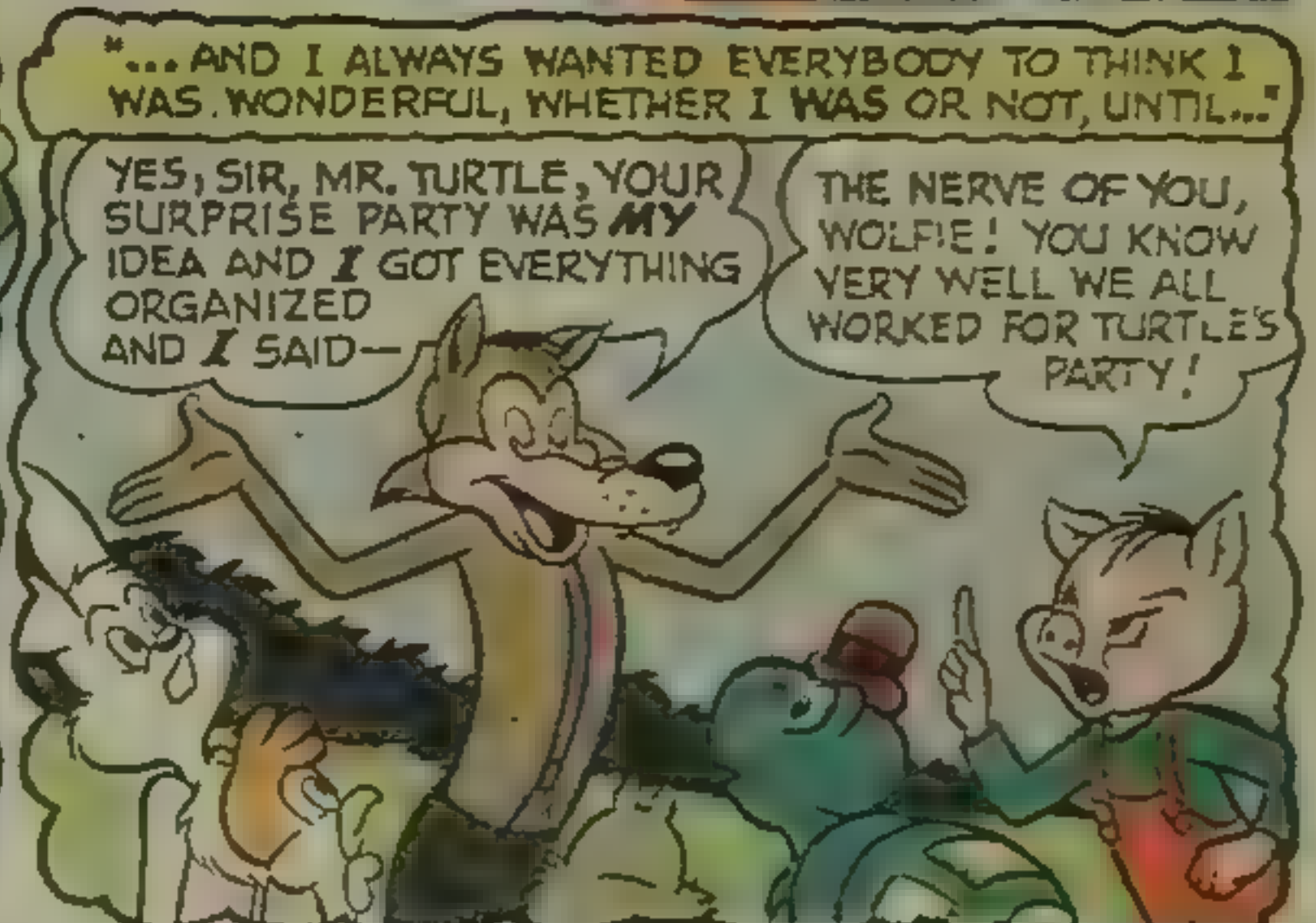
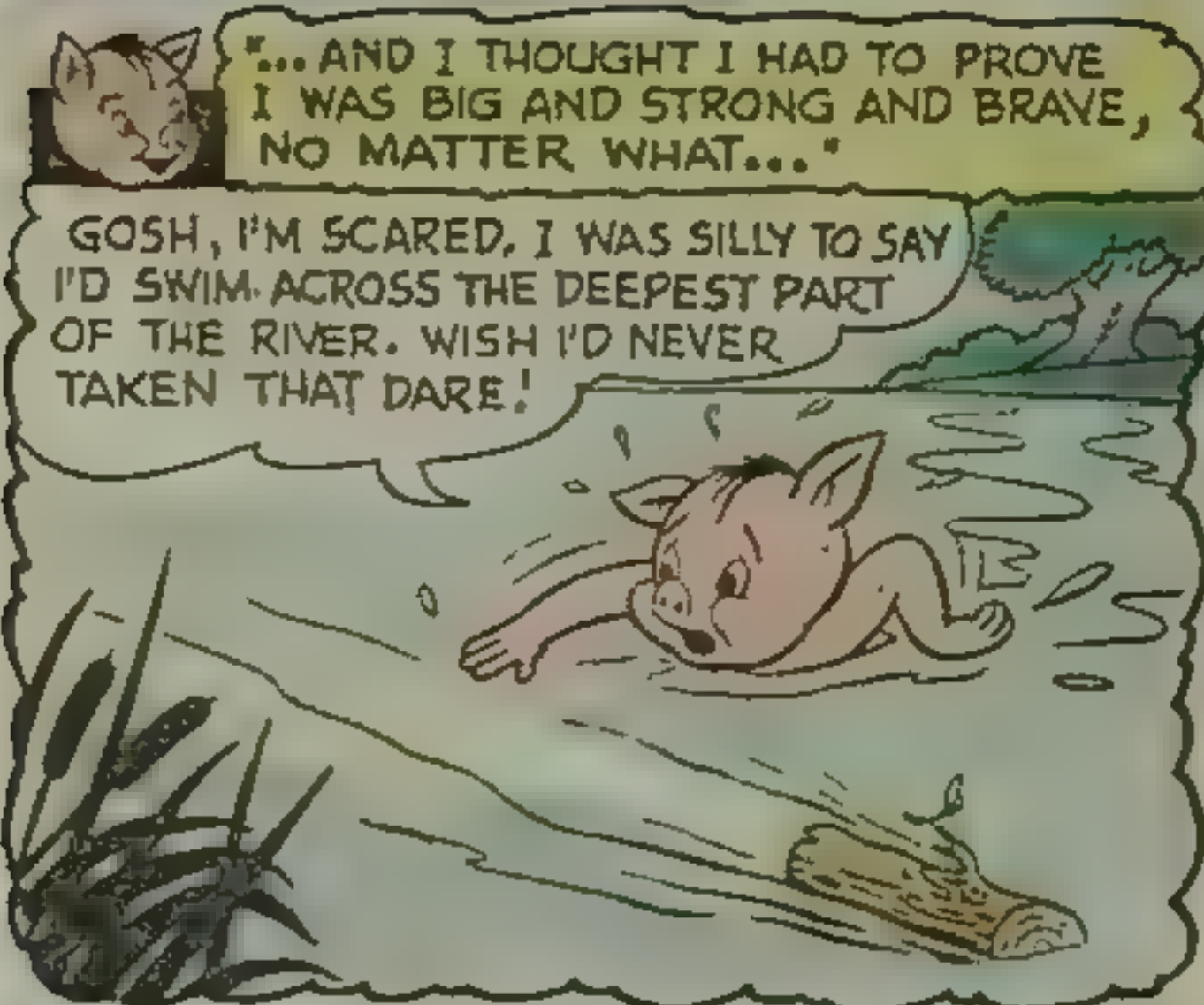
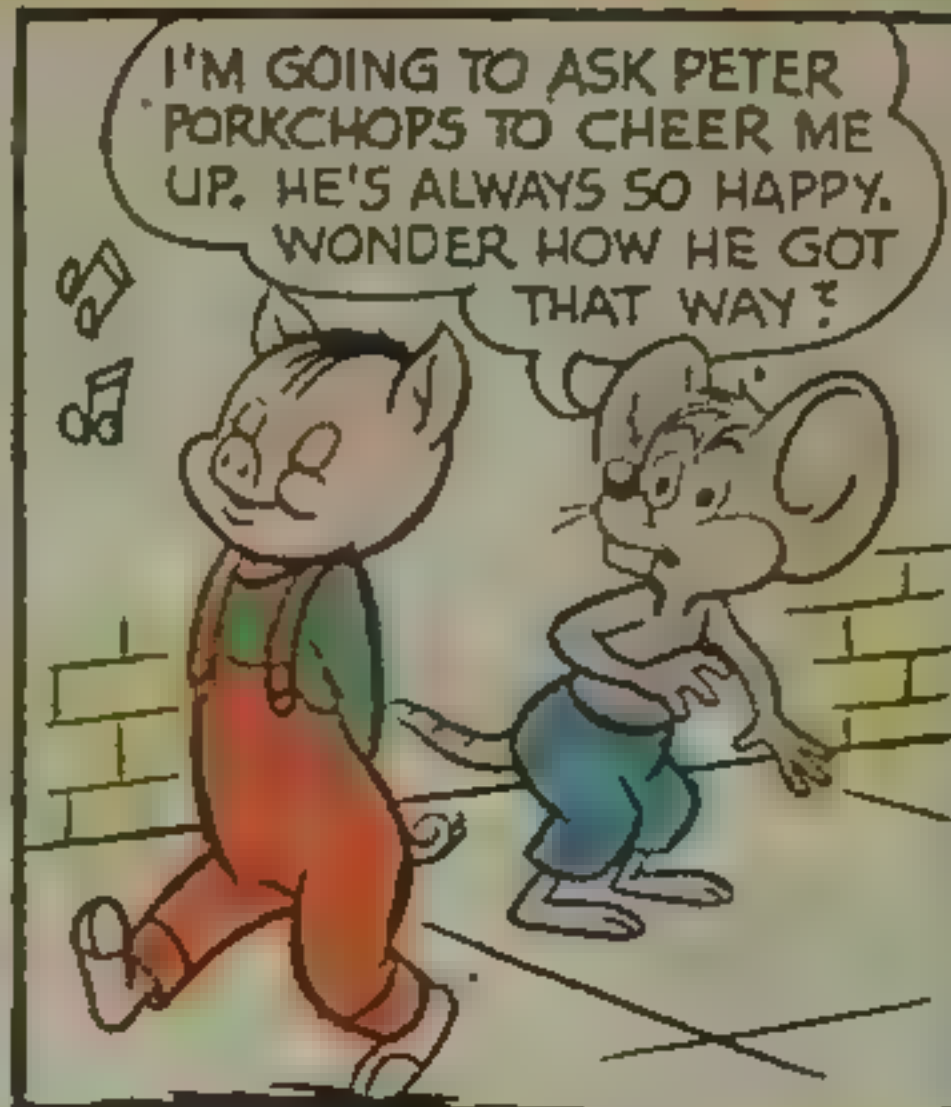


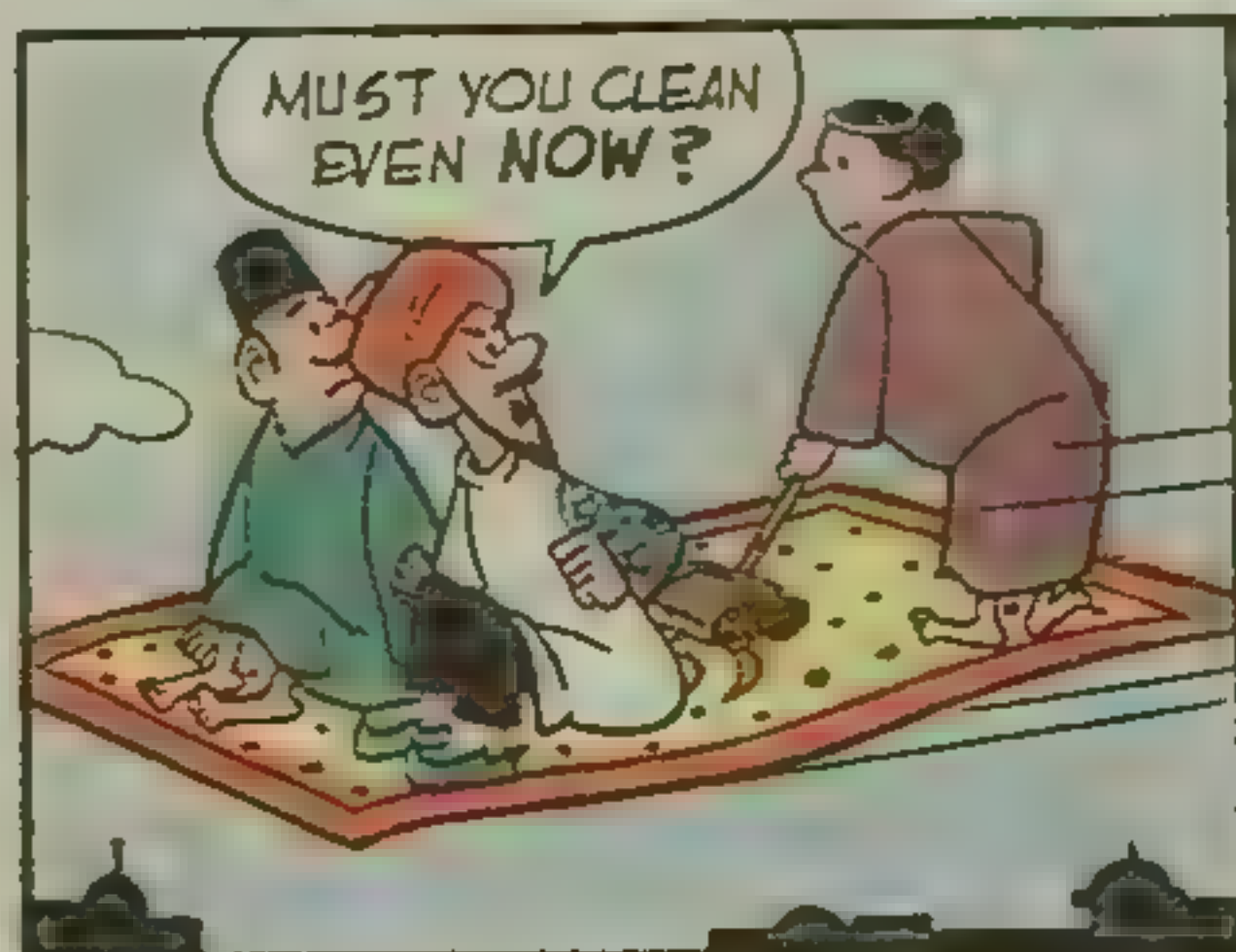
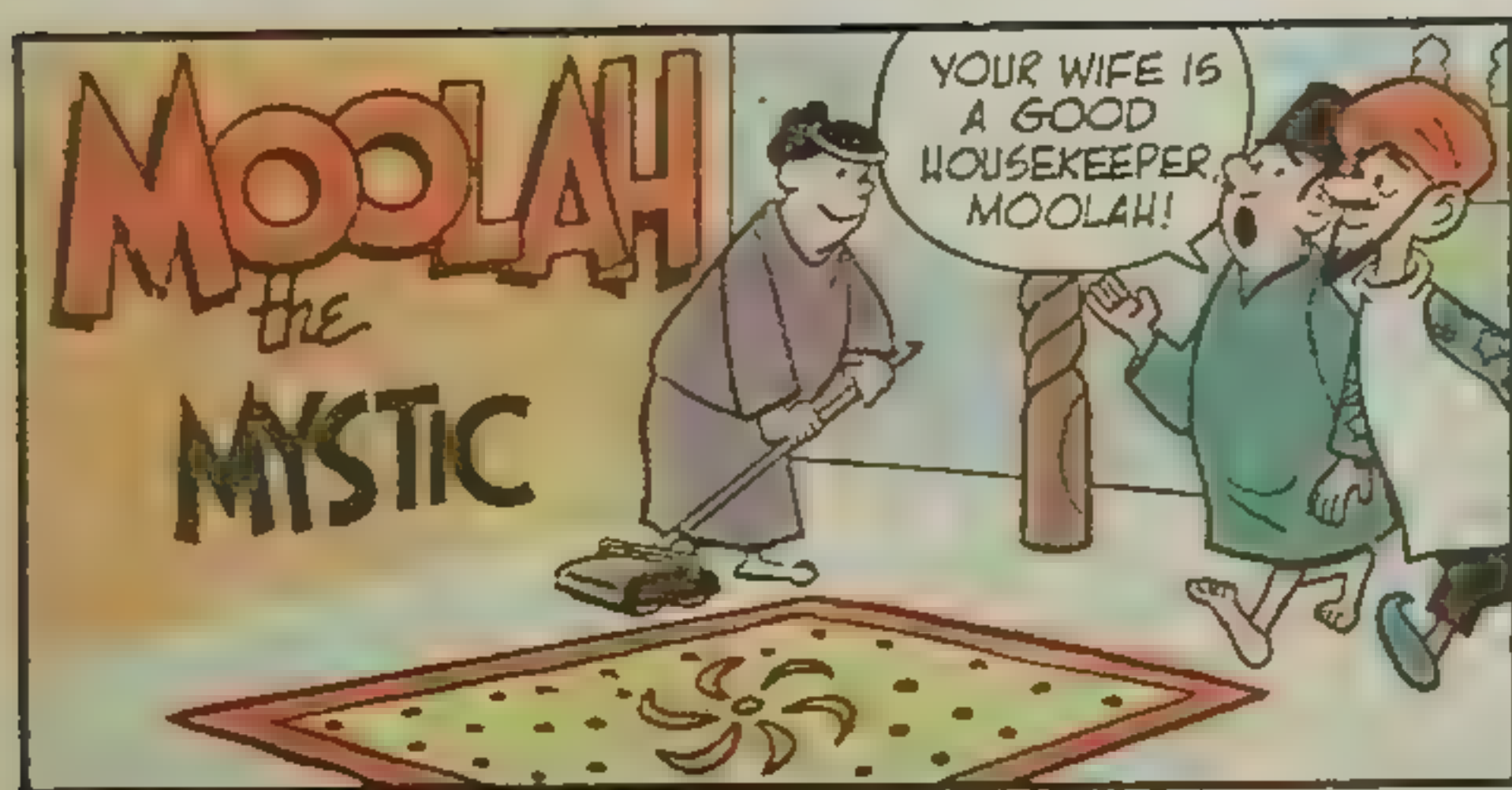
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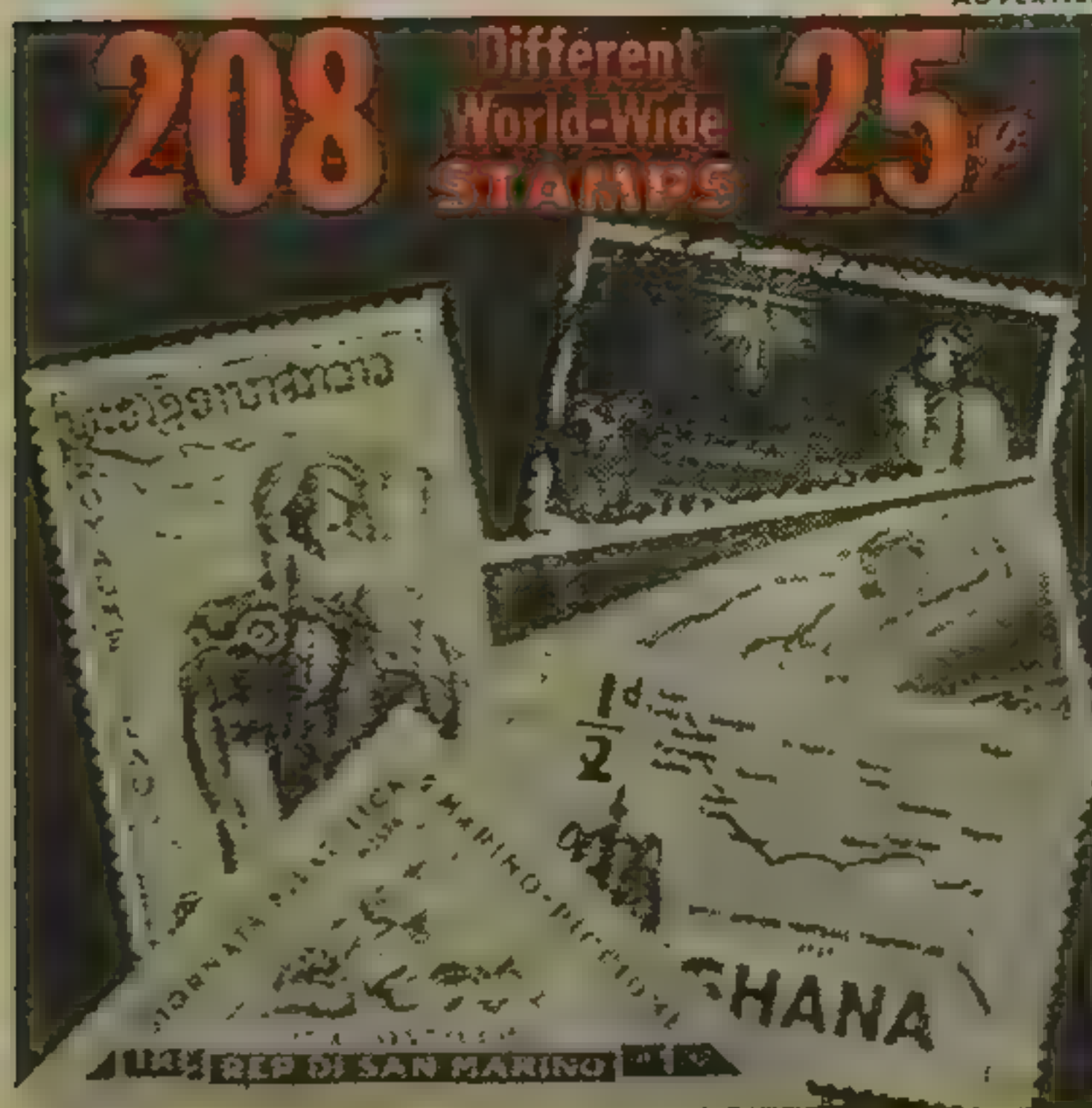
PETER PORKCHOPS

"The SECRET of the HAPPY PIG!"



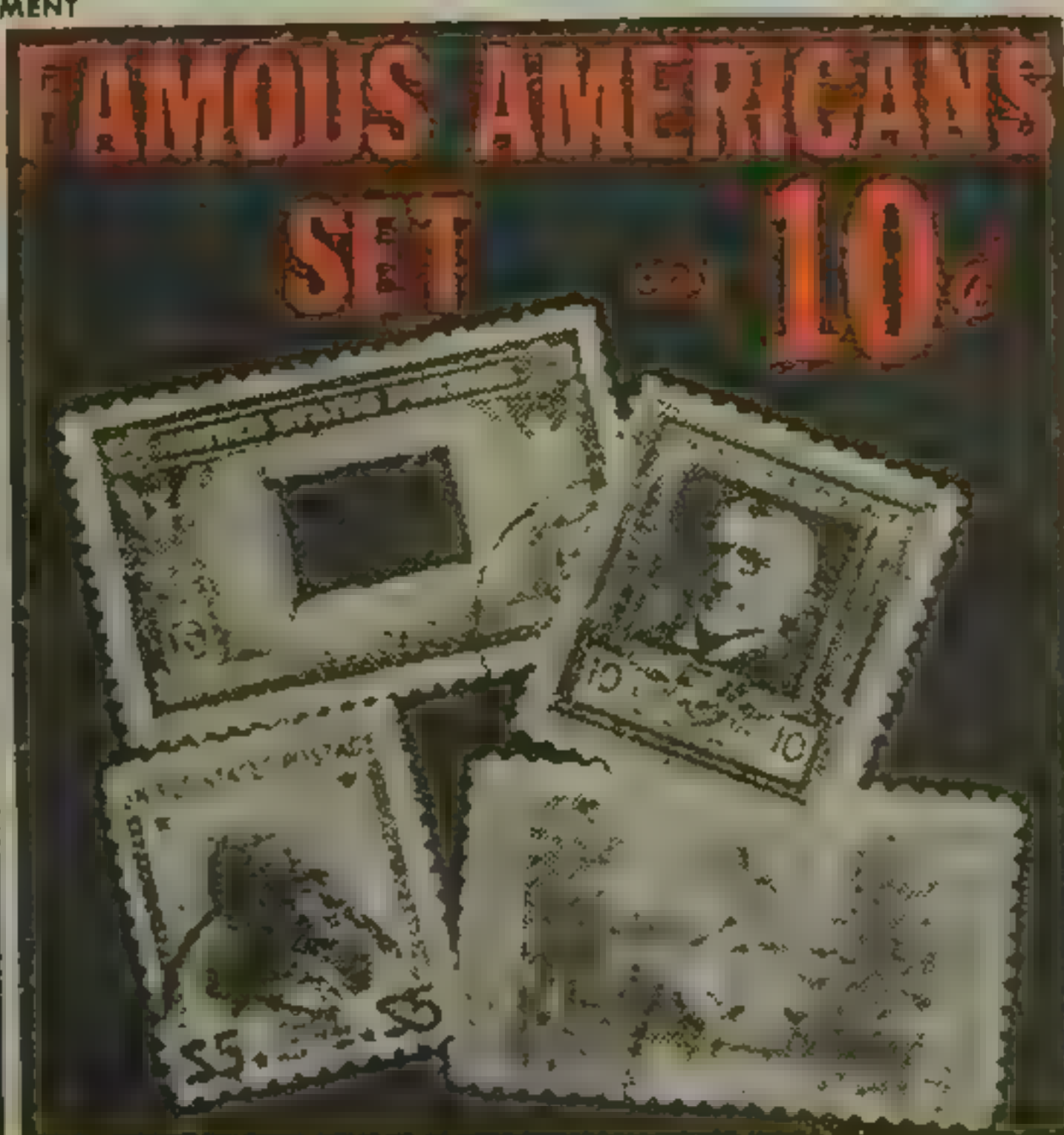


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THE GREAT GEM WAS WORTH A FORTUNE...IF YOU COULD LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SPEND IT... FOR IT CARRIED WITH IT A CENTURIES-OLD SPELL OF EVIL! BUT WHAT IF THAT SINISTER STONE WERE SPLIT INTO A HUNDRED PIECES, AND EACH ONE CARRIED...

the CURSE OF THE DIAMOND KUNG LO

LOOK! A SUDDEN, FIERCE WIND SENT THAT BILLBOARD HURLING DOWN AT THAT MAN!

AND HE JUST CAME OUT OF THE JEWELRY SHOP! IT'S THE CURSE OF KUNG LO AGAIN!

JEWELER





HOUSE OF SECRETS



IT IS MORNING AT A CIVILIAN AIRFIELD, WHERE AN AMATEUR PILOT IS PREPARING TO GO UP...

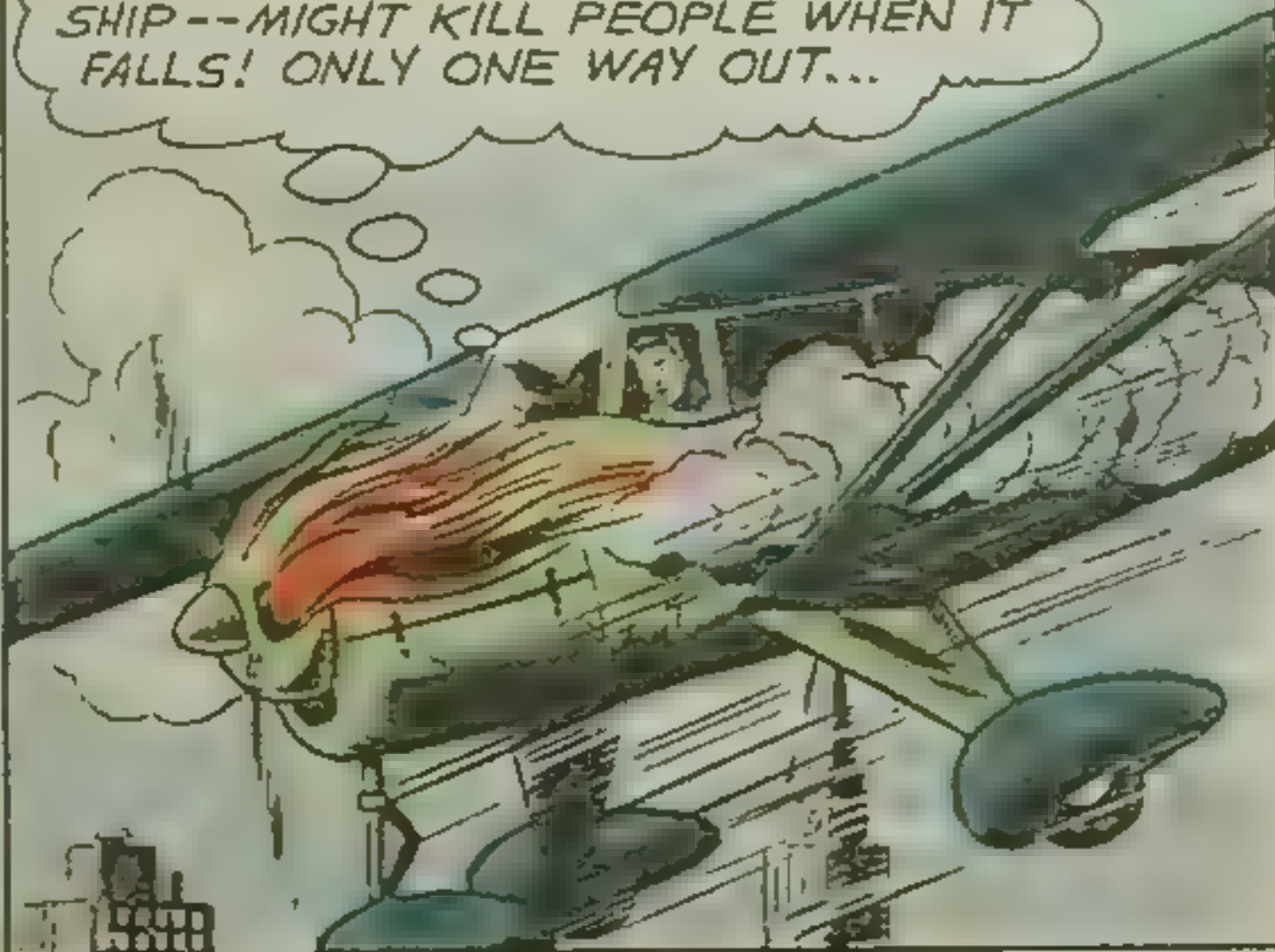
SAY, THAT'S A HANDSOME DIAMOND PIN YOU'RE WEARING THERE, MR. MALCOLM!

THANKS... MY WIFE GAVE IT TO ME YESTERDAY, FOR GOOD LUCK!



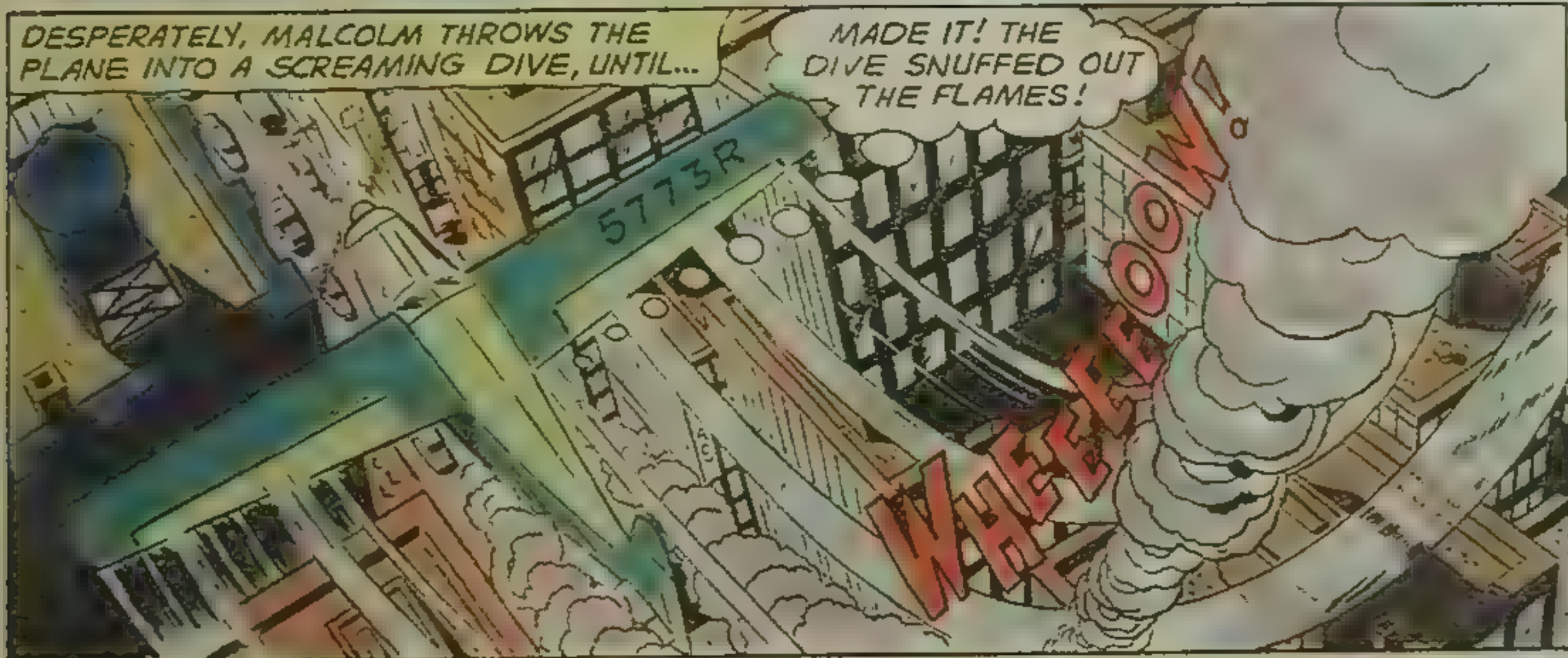
BUT LATER, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY...

ENGINE ON FIRE! CAN'T ABANDON SHIP--MIGHT KILL PEOPLE WHEN IT FALLS! ONLY ONE WAY OUT...



DESPERATELY, MALCOLM THROWS THE PLANE INTO A SCREAMING DIVE, UNTIL...

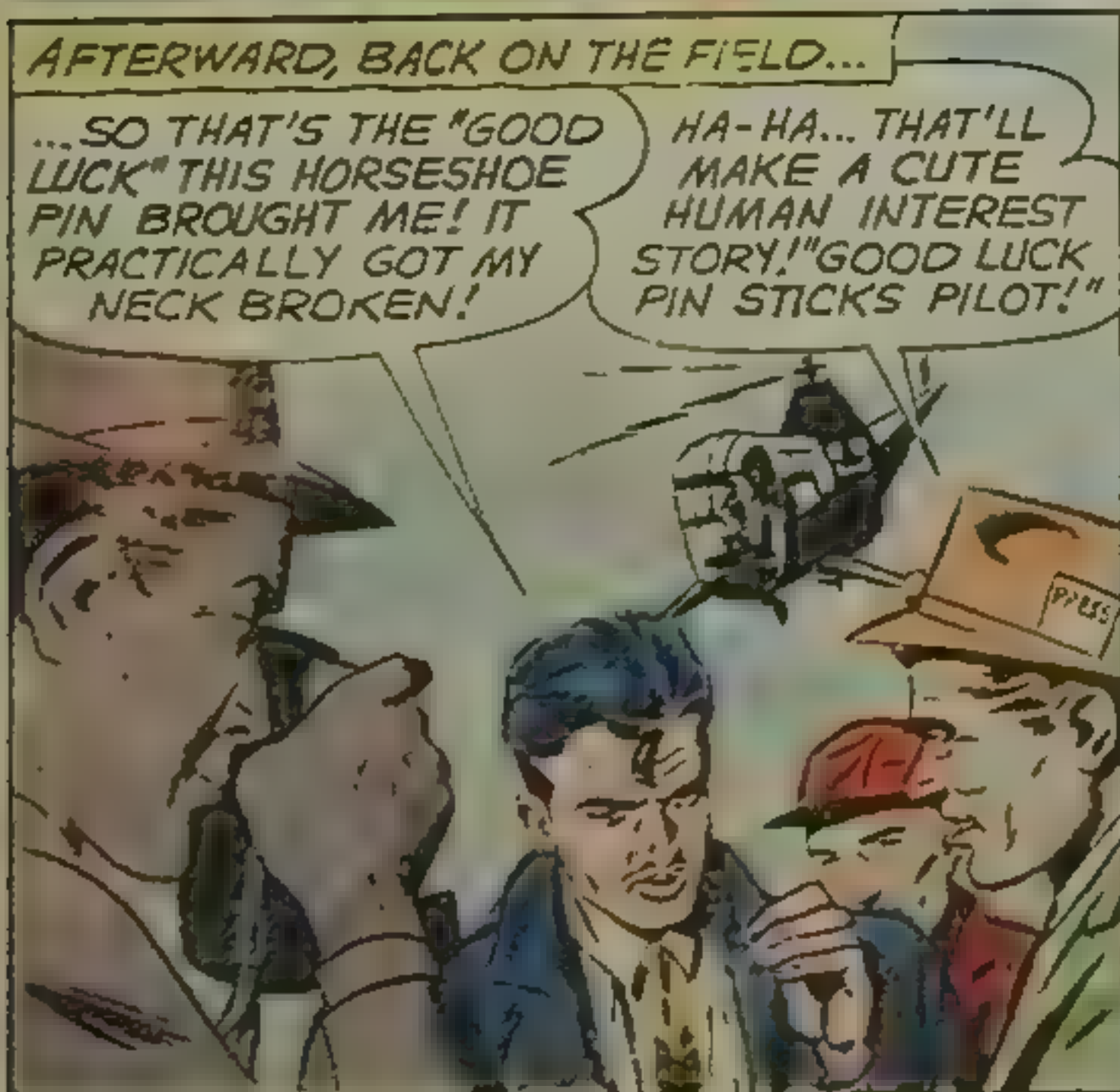
MADE IT! THE DIVE SNUFFED OUT THE FLAMES!



AFTERWARD, BACK ON THE FIELD...

...SO THAT'S THE "GOOD LUCK" THIS HORSESHOE PIN BROUGHT ME! IT PRACTICALLY GOT MY NECK BROKEN!

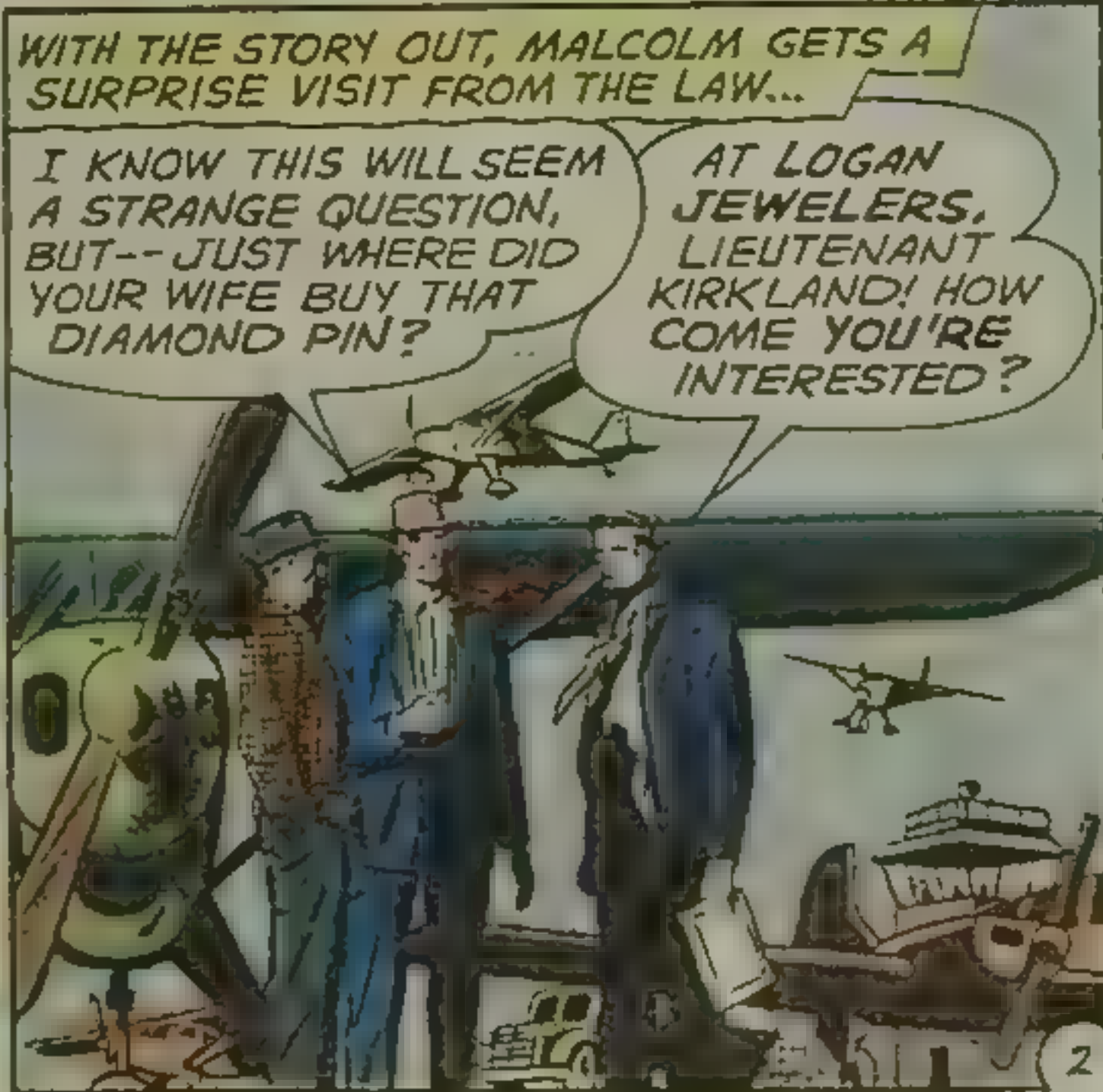
HA-HA... THAT'LL MAKE A CUTE HUMAN INTEREST STORY! "GOOD LUCK PIN STICKS PILOT!"



WITH THE STORY OUT, MALCOLM GETS A SURPRISE VISIT FROM THE LAW...

I KNOW THIS WILL SEEM A STRANGE QUESTION, BUT--JUST WHERE DID YOUR WIFE BUY THAT DIAMOND PIN?

AT LOGAN JEWELERS, LIEUTENANT KIRKLAND! HOW COME YOU'RE INTERESTED?





HOUSE OF SECRETS



I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT ALL NOW, MR. MALCOLM, EXCEPT TO TELL YOU THAT TWO DAYS AGO, A MAN'S HOUSE BURNED DOWN AND HE WAS ALMOST KILLED WHEN HE WENT BACK TO SAVE SOME DIAMOND CUFF LINKS HE'D JUST BOUGHT AT **LOGAN'S!**

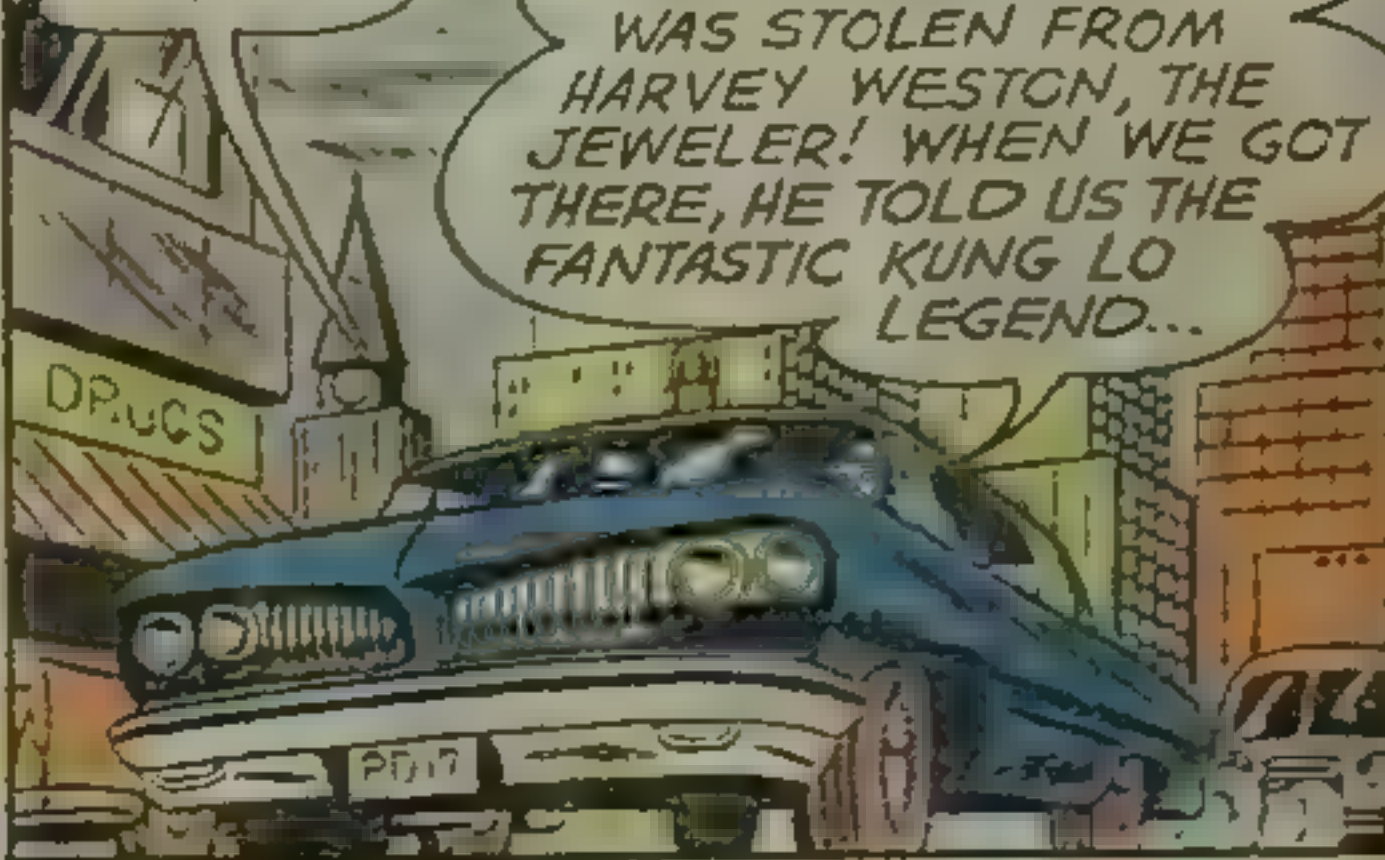
WHAT??



AND SHORTLY, AS DETECTIVES KIRKLAND AND JAMES RACE TO **LOGAN JEWELERS...**

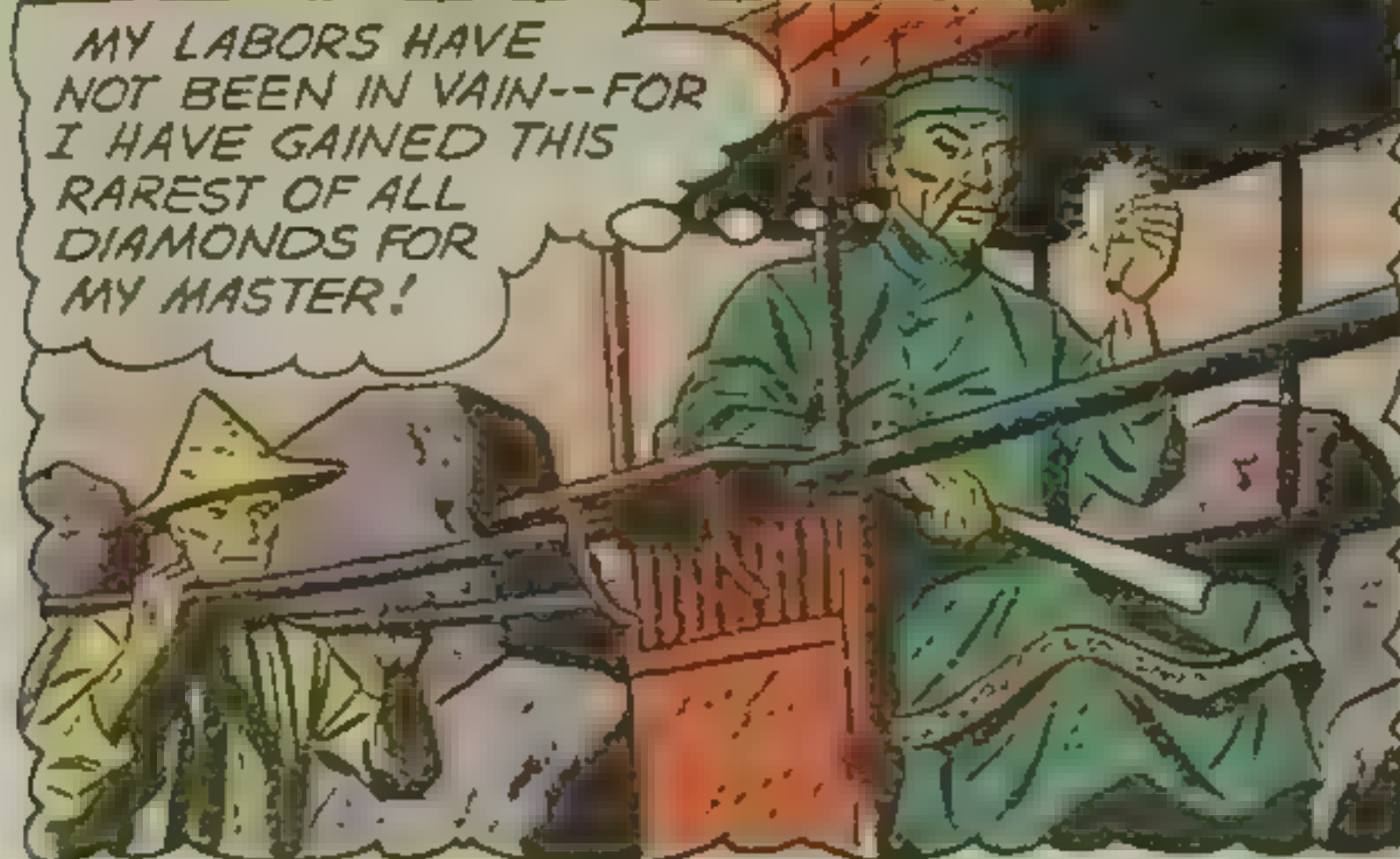
NOW, KIRK, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY?

A FEW WEEKS AGO, THE **KUNG LO DIAMOND**, A FABULOUS 25-KARAT STONE, WAS STOLEN FROM HARVEY WESTON, THE JEWELER! WHEN WE GOT THERE, HE TOLD US THE FANTASTIC **KUNG LO LEGEND...**



"CENTURIES AGO, **KUNG LO**, A CHINESE RULER, SENT FORTH AN EMISSARY TO BUY HIM THE MOST PRECIOUS GEM IN EXISTENCE..."

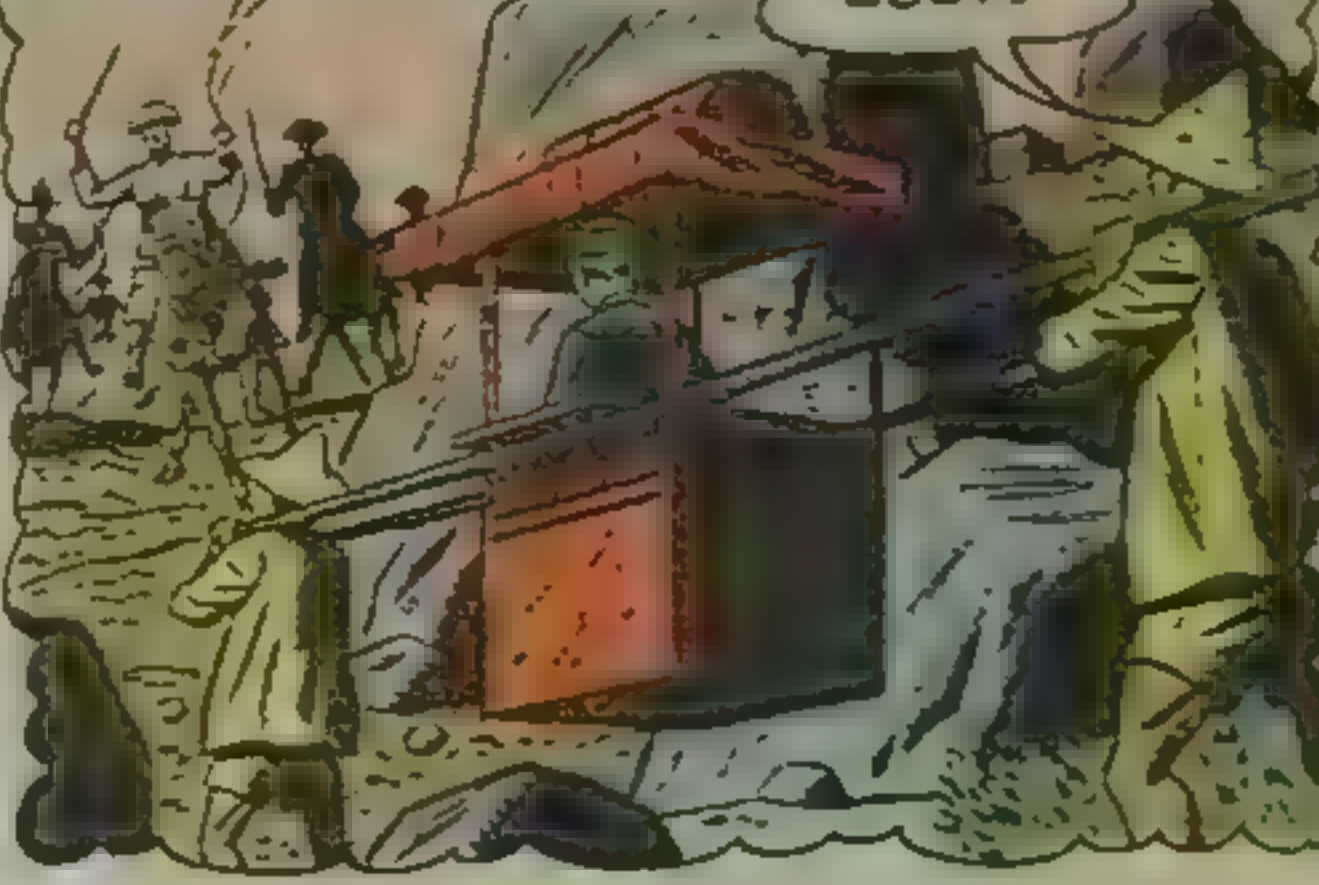
MY LABORS HAVE NOT BEEN IN VAIN--FOR I HAVE GAINED THIS RAREST OF ALL DIAMONDS FOR MY MASTER!



"SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND SOME GREAT BOULDERS..."

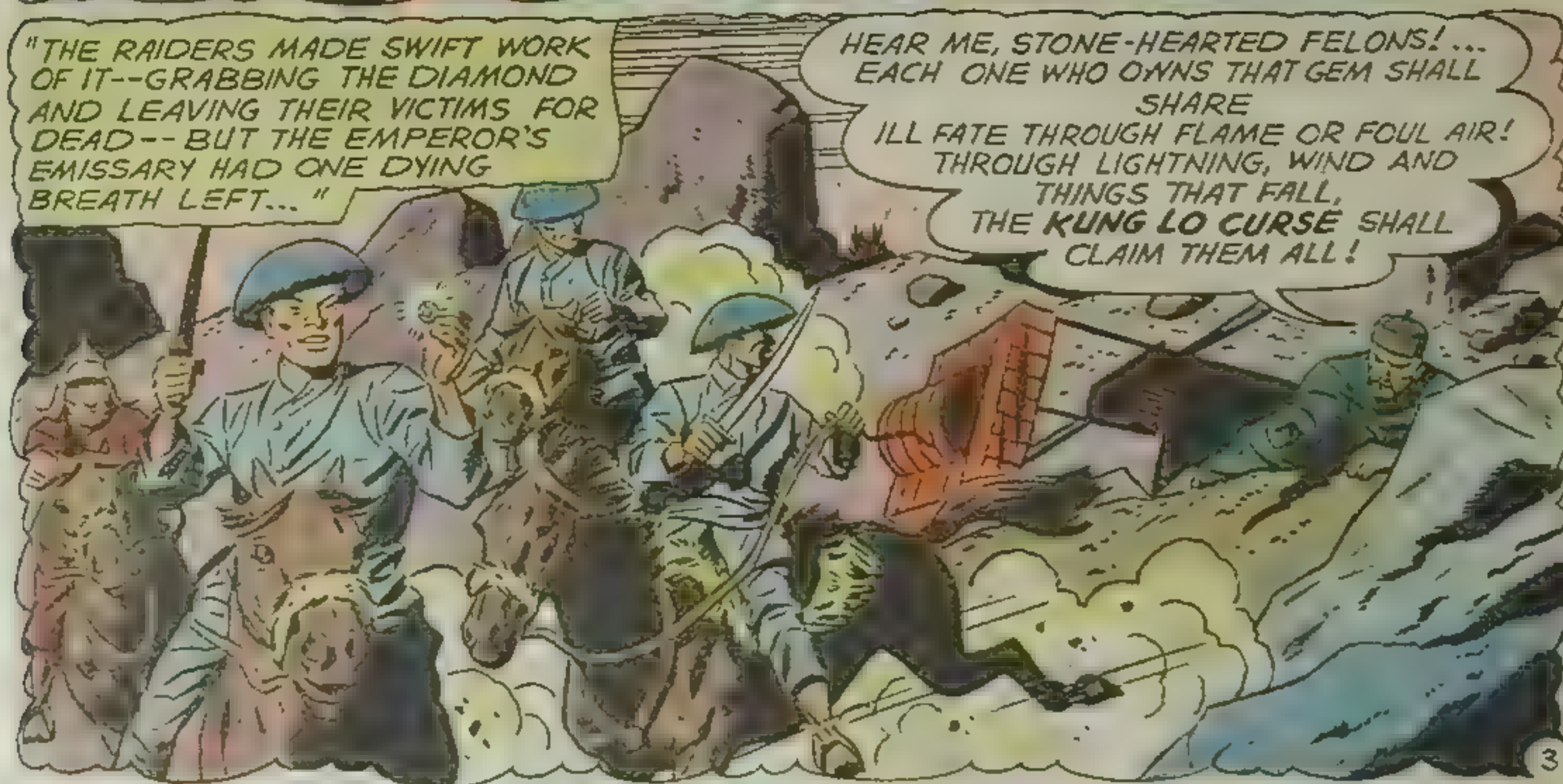
AYEEEEEE!

BANDITS! THE THIEVES OF THIS REGION ARE WITHOUT MERCY! OUR LIVES ARE LOST!



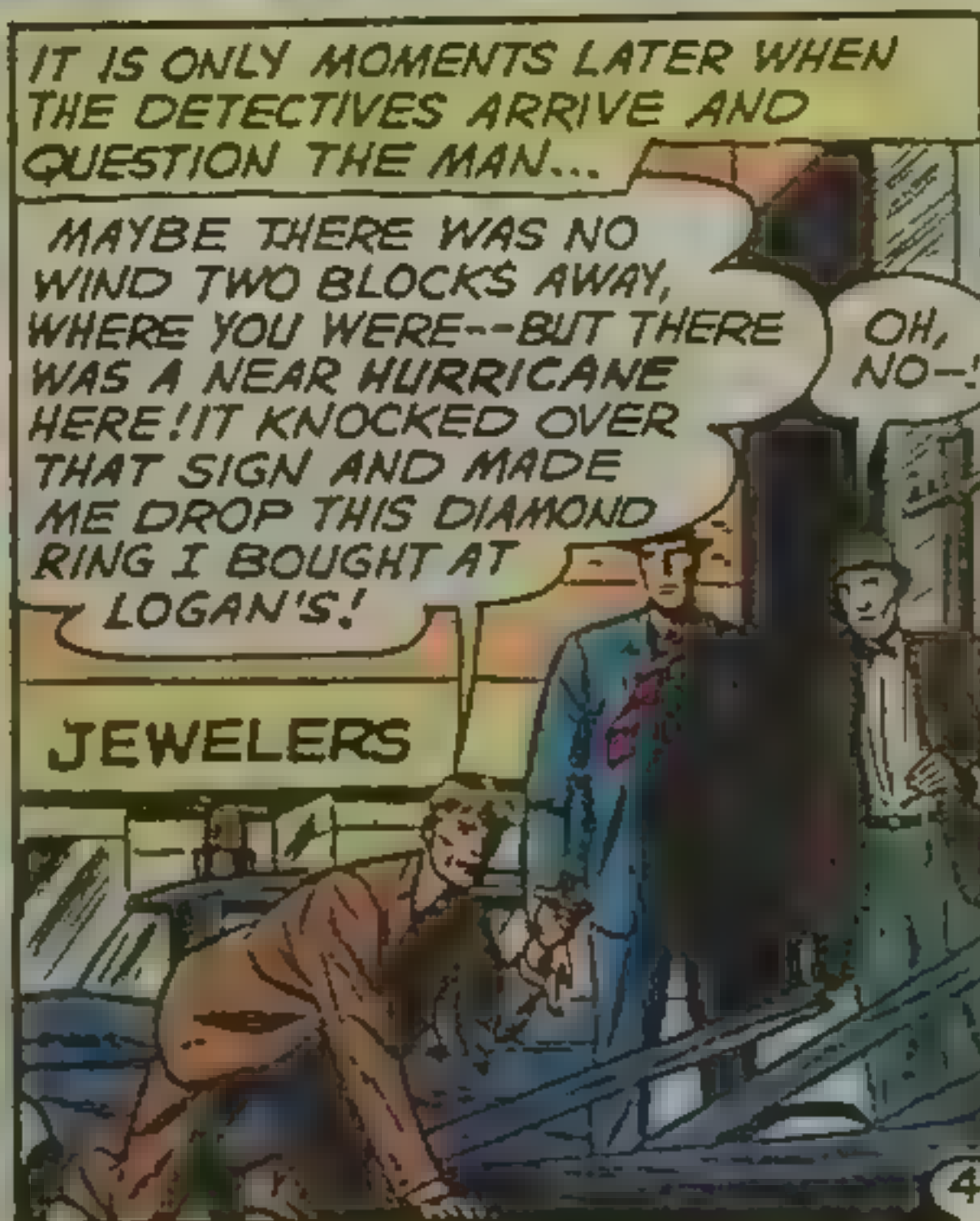
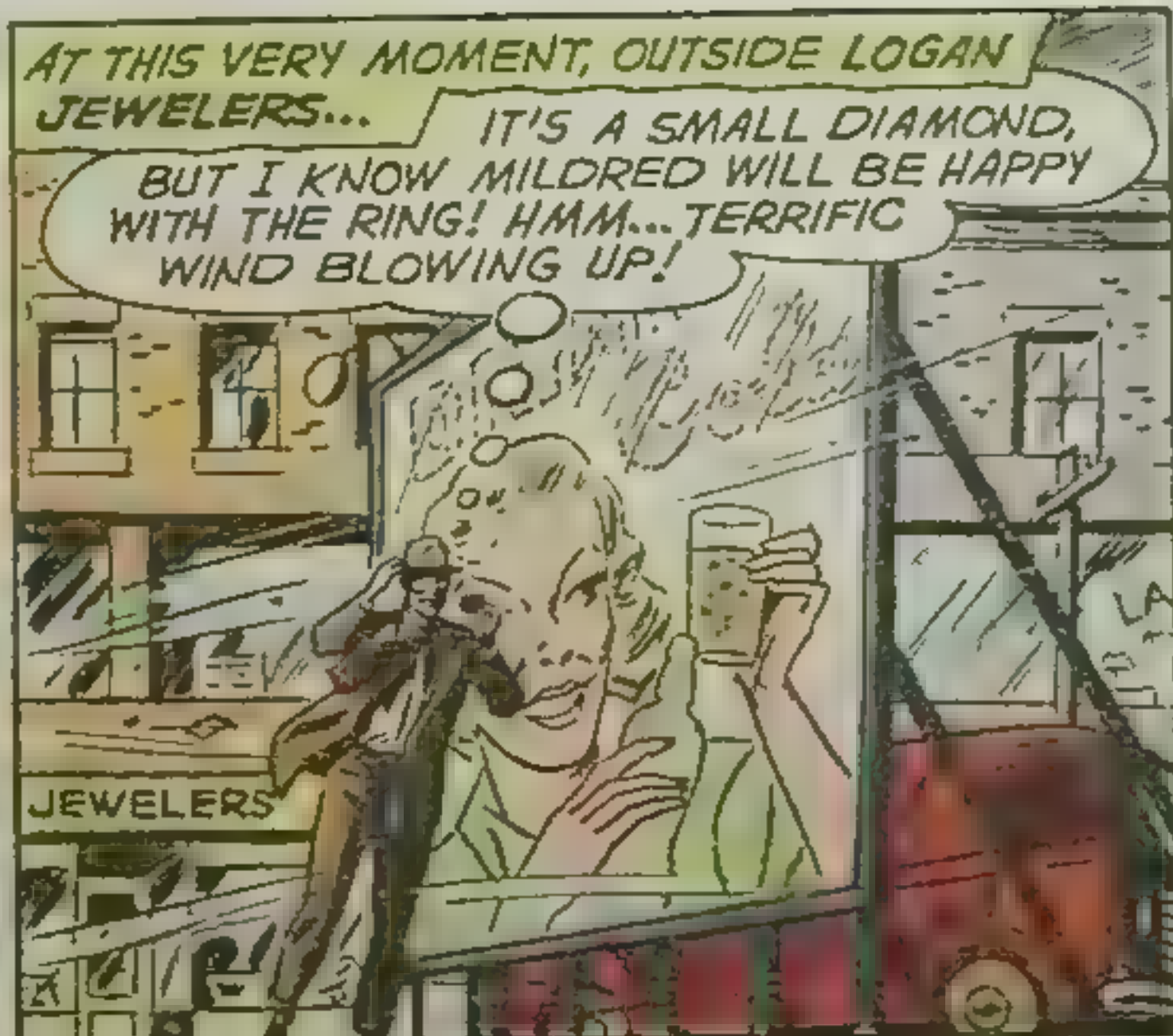
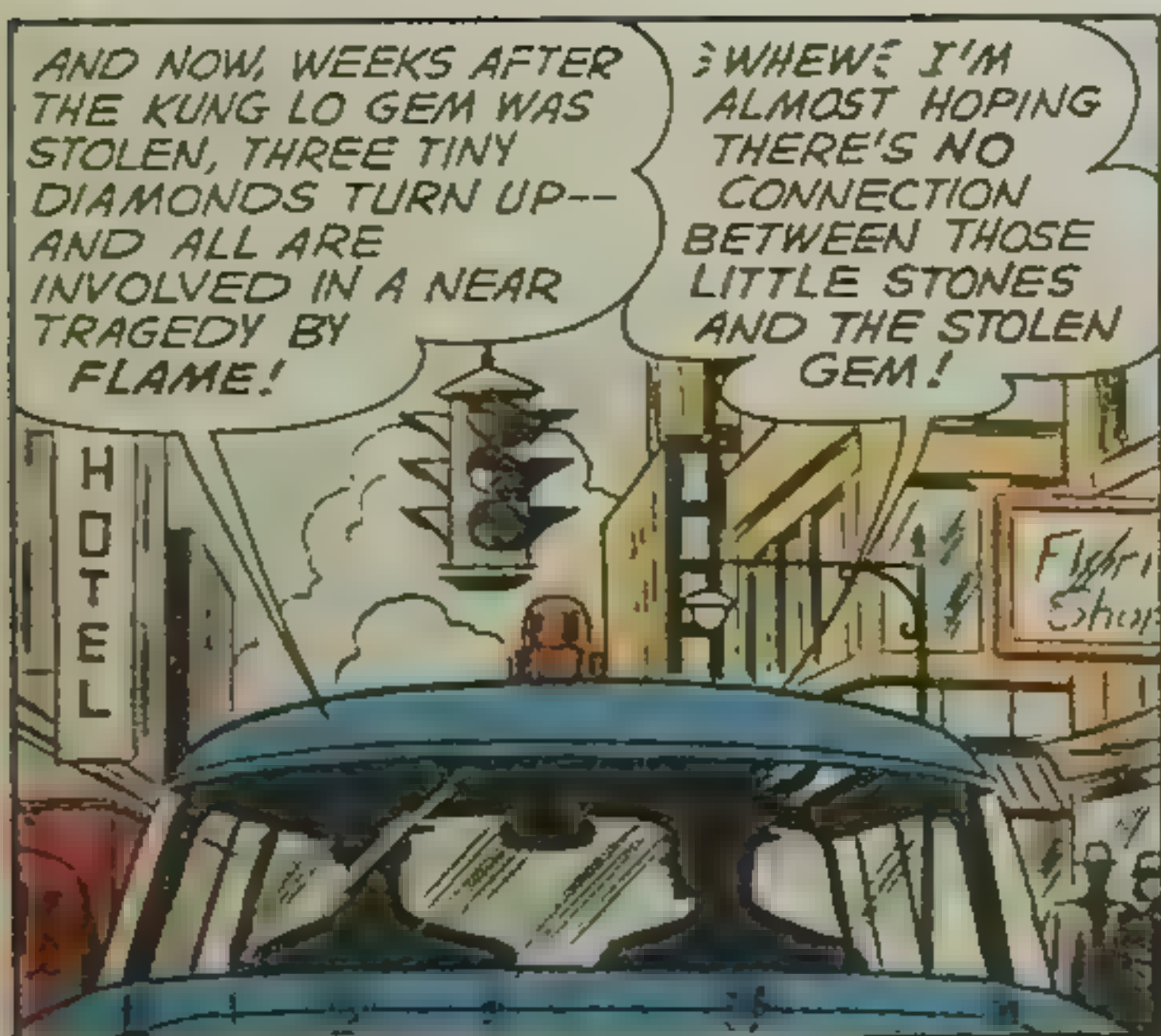
"THE RAIDERS MADE SWIFT WORK OF IT--GRABBING THE DIAMOND AND LEAVING THEIR VICTIMS FOR DEAD-- BUT THE EMPEROR'S EMISSARY HAD ONE DYING BREATH LEFT..."

HEAR ME, STONE-HEARTED FELONS! ... EACH ONE WHO OWNS THAT GEM SHALL SHARE ILL FATE THROUGH FLAME OR FOUL AIR! THROUGH LIGHTNING, WIND AND THINGS THAT FALL, THE **KUNG LO CURSE** SHALL CLAIM THEM ALL!





HOUSE OF SECRETS





HOUSE OF SECRETS



BEWILDERED, THE PAIR DASHES INTO THE JEWELRY SHOP, WHERE...

AFTER I BOUGHT THE FIVE DIAMONDS, I SOLD FOUR-- AS CUFF LINKS, A RING, AND A HORSESHOE PIN! THE MAN I BOUGHT THEM FROM SEEMED TO BE A LEGITIMATE DEALER... A TALL, RED-HEADED FELLOW, WITH A MOLE OVER HIS LEFT EYE!

HA! THAT'S RED MARTIN-- A TOP JEWEL THIEF, MR. LOGAN!



I GET IT NOW! MARTIN STOLE THE KUNG LO AND CUT IT UP INTO DOZENS OF TINY STONES, WHICH HE COULD UNLOAD SAFELY... AND THE CURSE IS FOLLOWING EACH OF THOSE STONES! QUICK, LOGAN, WHERE'S THE FIFTH DIAMOND?

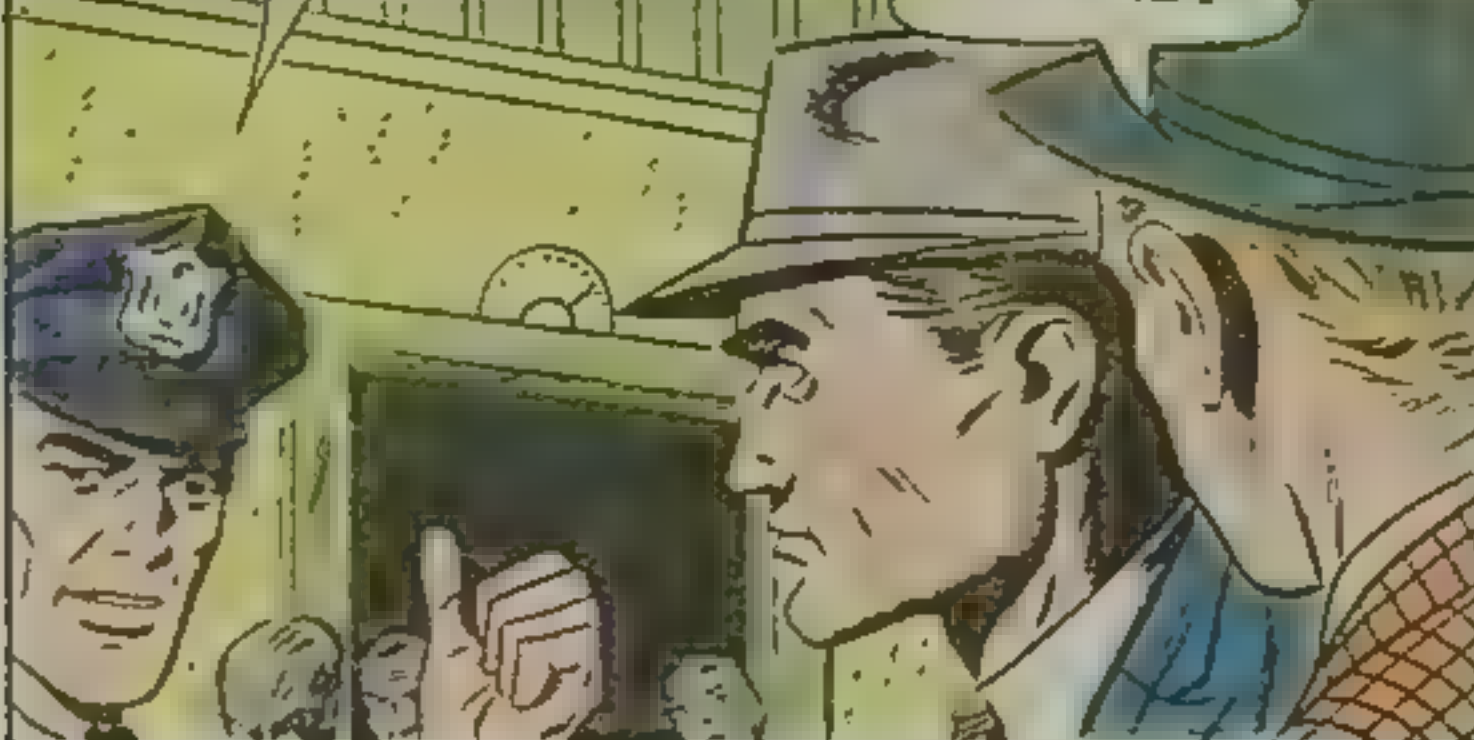
OH, THIS IS DREADFUL! I SOLD IT YESTERDAY, AS A STICKPIN, TO A MAN NAMED PEAL! HE'S GOT AN OFFICE IN THE BAR BUILDING!



BUT THERE, BY THE TIME THE TWO DETECTIVES, ARRIVE, TRAGEDY HAS ALREADY STRUCK!

ALL I KNOW, LIEUTENANT, IS THIS GUY PEAL IS TRAPPED IN THE ELEVATOR BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 11TH FLOORS! THE ENGINEER SAYS THAT CAR COULD FALL AT ANY MINUTE!

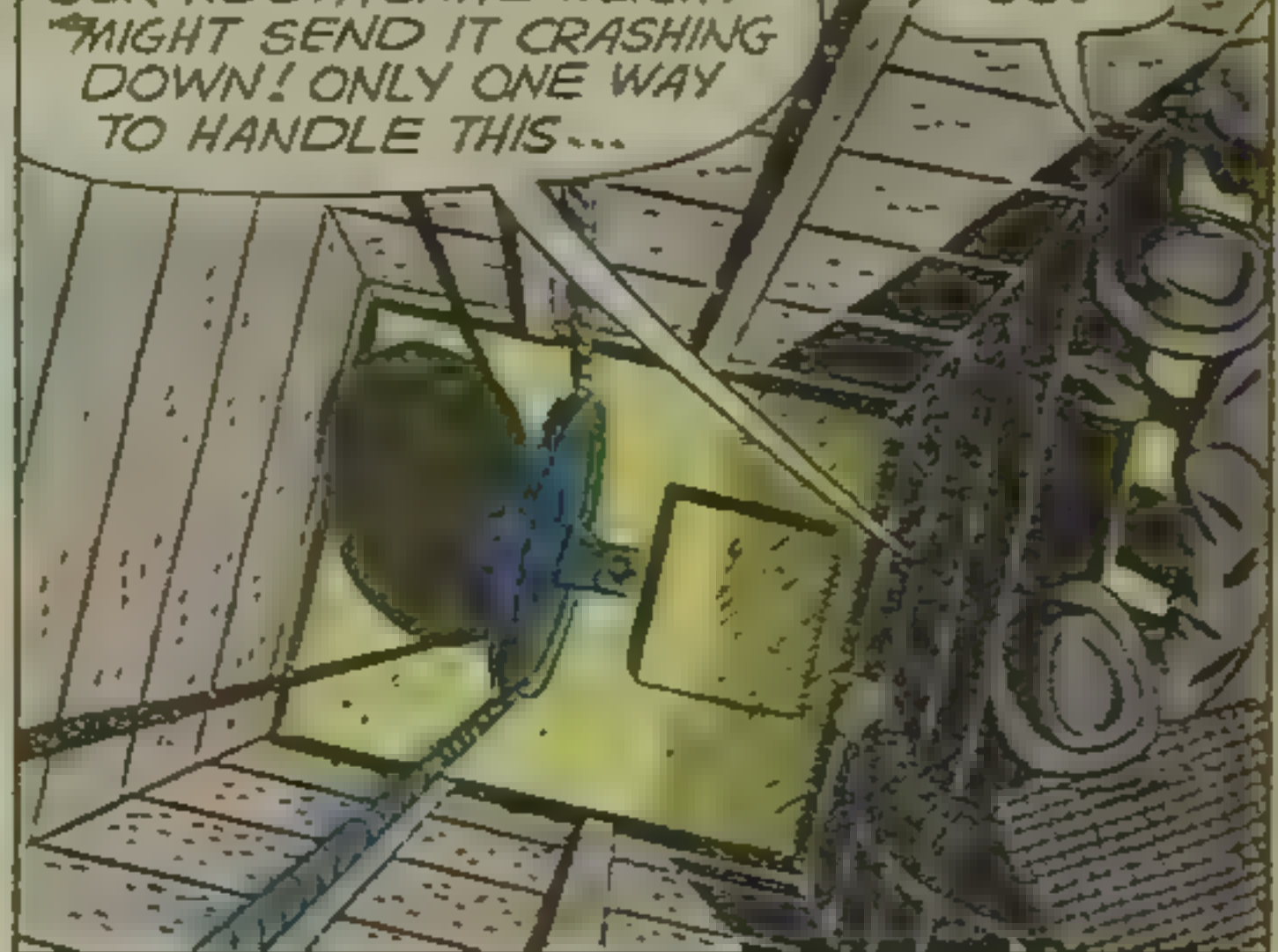
FANTASTIC! REMEMBER THE LEGEND, KIRK! "THROUGH LIGHTNING, WIND AND THINGS THAT FALL!" WE MUST GET HIM OUT OF THERE!



RACING TO THE 11TH FLOOR, THE TRIO SURVEYS THE SCENE...

WE DON'T DARE ENTER THE ELEVATOR ITSELF... OUR ADDITIONAL WEIGHT MIGHT SEND IT CRASHING DOWN! ONLY ONE WAY TO HANDLE THIS...

YES--A HUMAN CHAIN! LET'S GO!



SOON, WITH PRACTICED PRECISION...

HAUL AWAY, MEN-- I'VE GOT HIM SECURELY!



THANK GOODNESS YOU ARRIVED! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SURVIVE THIS!



HOUSE OF SECRETS



LATER, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS...

THAT'S IT-- FIVE DIAMONDS, EACH OF WHICH BROUGHT NEAR-DISASTER TO ITS OWNER... AND, IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, RED MARTIN'S GOING TO SPREAD THE REST OF THOSE CURSED STONES ALL OVER TOWN!

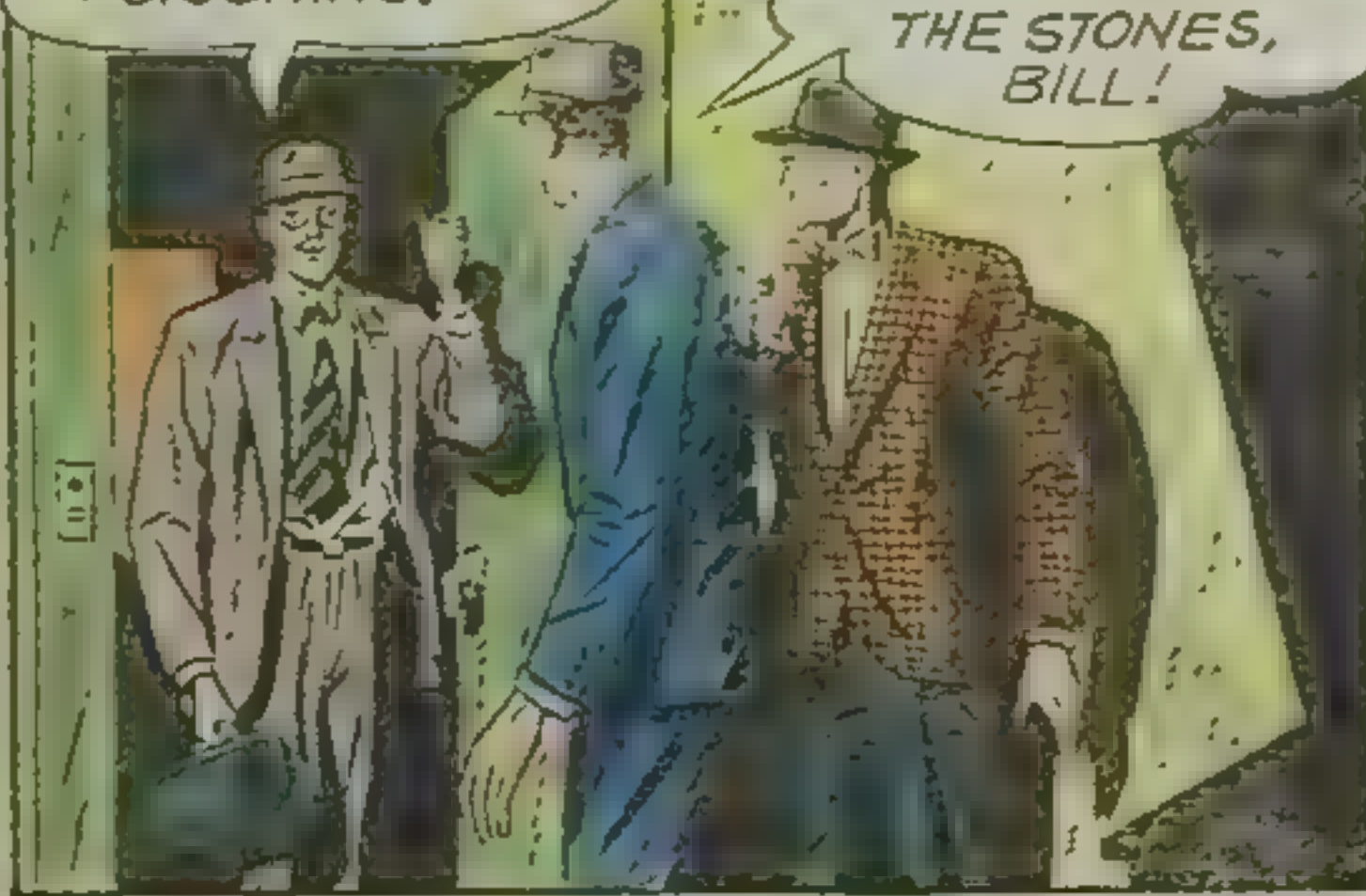
CHECK! I'VE GOT A LEAD ON MARTIN'S WHEREABOUTS... LET'S GO!



BUT, WHEN THEY REACH THE CRIMINAL'S APARTMENT...

SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT MR. MARTIN IS DEAD! ACCIDENTAL GAS POISONING!

DEATH BY "FOUL AIR!" THE CURSE GOT HIM, TOO! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND THE STONES, BILL!



THERE THEY ARE-- DOZENS OF THEM!

AND EACH ONE OF THEM BEARING THAT DREAD CURSE! WELL, OUR JOB IS DONE, KIRK... WE'VE FOUND THE REST OF THE KUNG LO DIAMOND!



SO AWHILE LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF JEWELER HARVEY WESTON...

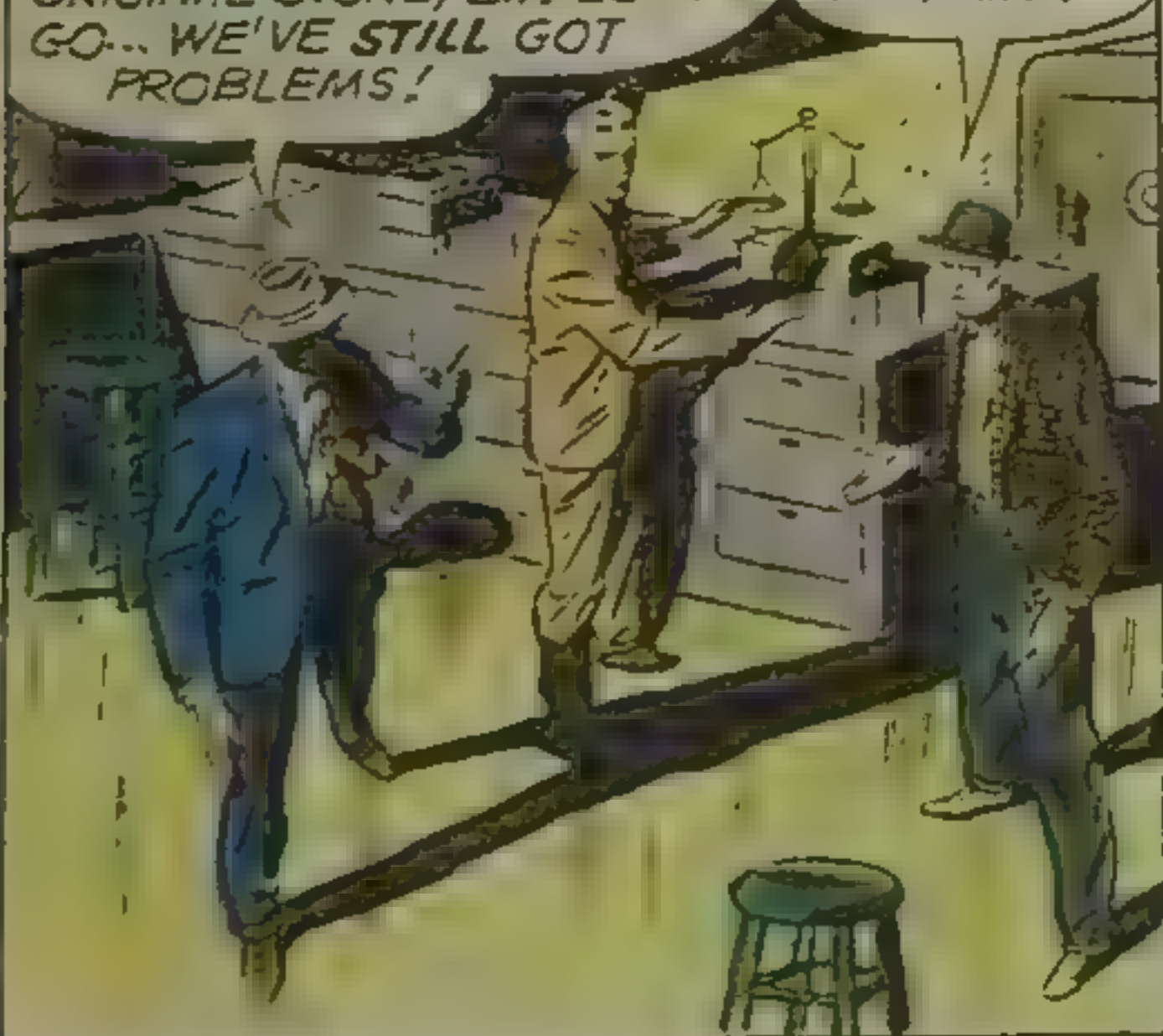
THERE!... ALL OF THE DIAMONDS YOU RECOVERED ADD UP TO PRECISELY 25 KARATS, THE SAME WEIGHT AS THE KUNG LO! BUT CUT UP LIKE THIS, IT'S WORTH A FRACTION OF ITS ORIGINAL VALUE!

SORRY, SIR, BUT WE DID ALL WE COULD! THE THIEF IS DEAD, AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR STONE BACK--EVEN IF IN PIECES!



HMM... HOLD EVERYTHING! THE EXACT WEIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL STONE, EH? LET'S GO... WE'VE STILL GOT PROBLEMS!

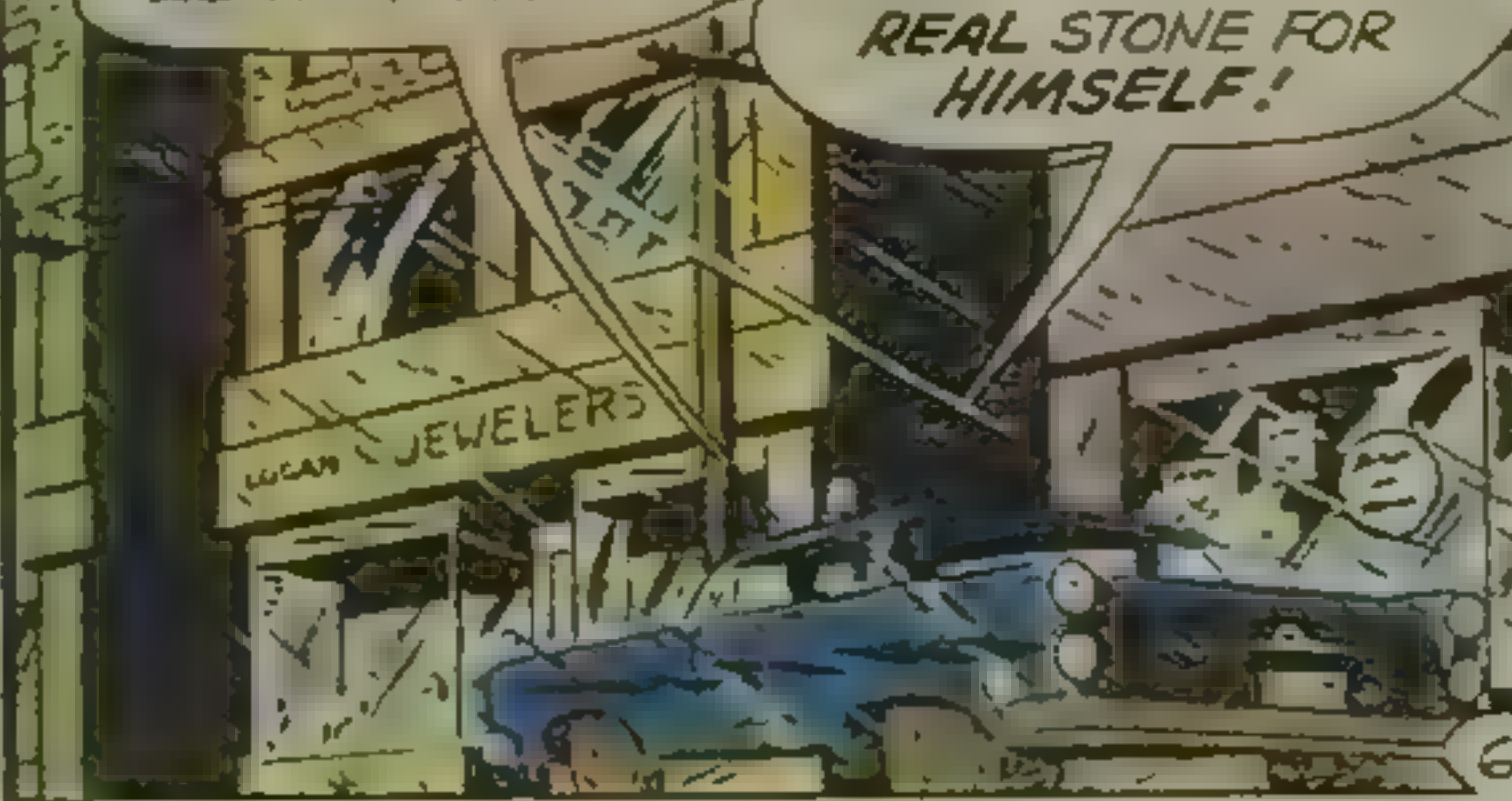
WHAT--? I DON'T DIG YOU, KIRK!



SPEEDING ACROSS THE WINDY, RAINSWEEP CITY, KIRKLAND EXPLAINS...

...AND, IF THE ORIGINAL STONE WAS REALLY SLICED UP, A FEW GRAINS OF WEIGHT WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE CUTTING! BUT THE COMBINED STONES STILL WEIGHED EXACTLY 25 KARATS!

I GET IT, KIRK! MARTIN SPREAD THOSE SMALL DIAMONDS AROUND TOWN TO MAKE US BELIEVE THEY WERE PARTS OF THE KUNG LO! THAT WAY, HE COULD KEEP THE REAL STONE FOR HIMSELF!



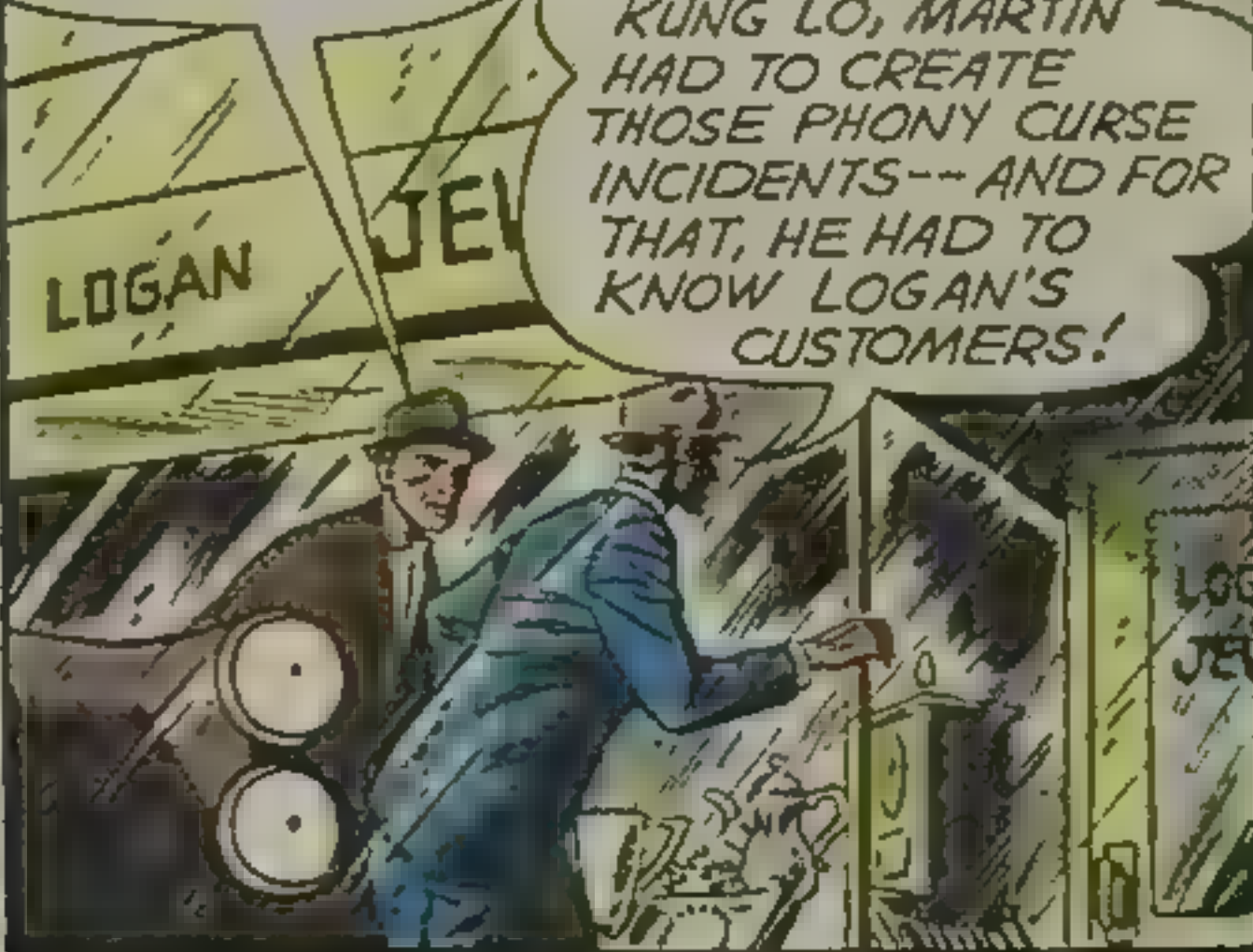


HOUSE OF SECRETS



BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE THAT **LOGAN** WAS IN ON THE GAME?

TO CONVINCE US THAT THE SMALL DIAMONDS WERE PARTS OF THE KUNG LO, MARTIN HAD TO CREATE THOSE PHONY CURSE INCIDENTS-- AND FOR THAT, HE HAD TO KNOW LOGAN'S CUSTOMERS!



TAKEN BY SURPRISE, LOGAN BLABS THE WHOLE STORY IN FULL PANIC...

IT'S TRUE... MARTIN BOUGHT UP SMALL, INEXPENSIVE DIAMONDS, OF A QUALITY SIMILAR TO THE KUNG LO... THEN HE CREATED THOSE DISASTERS SO YOU WOULD RELATE THE SMALL STONES TO THE BIG CURSED ONE! HE USED A PORTABLE WIND MACHINE TO BLOW DOWN THAT LOOSENED BILLBOARD!



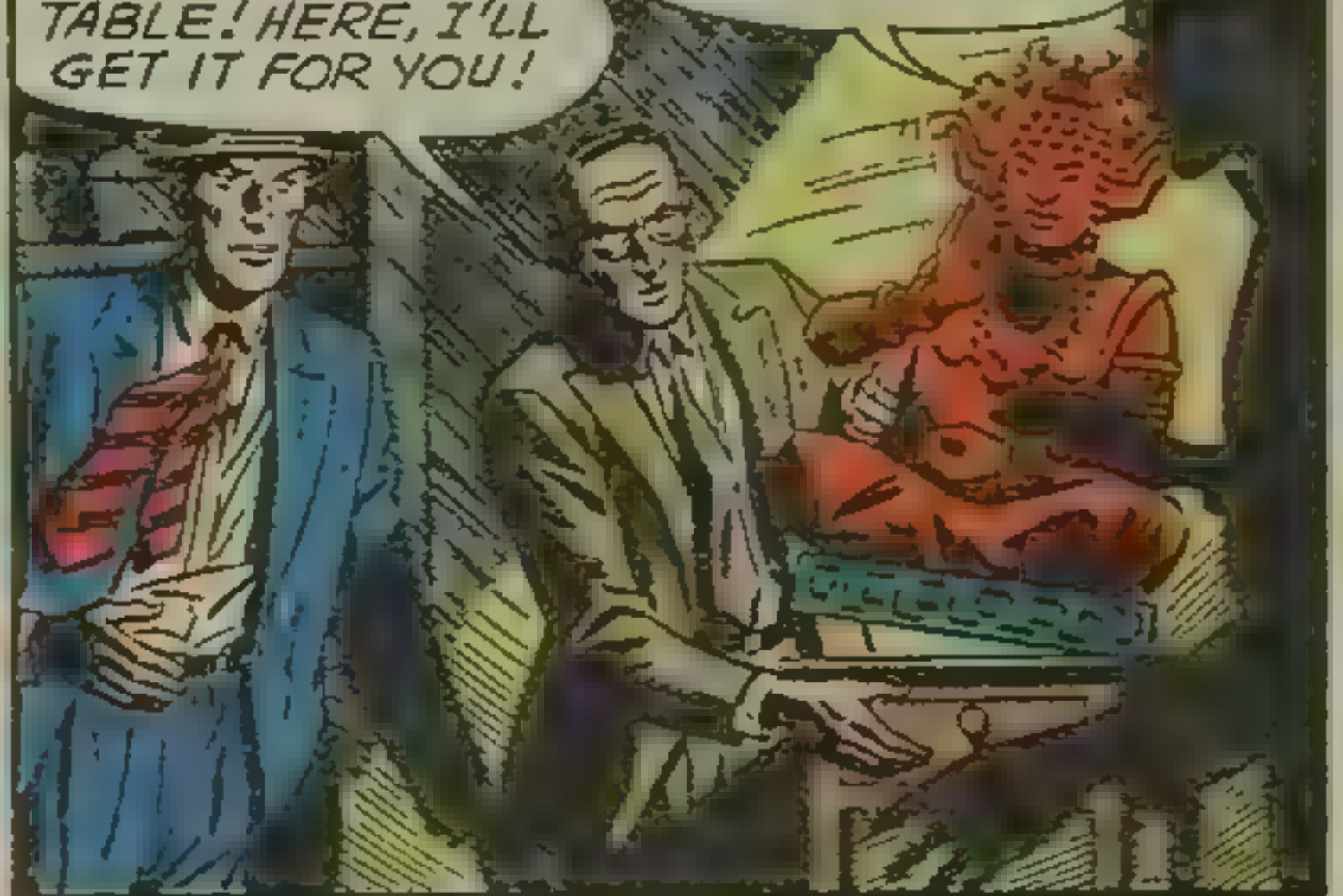
ONE THING YOU HAVEN'T CONFESSED... YOU REALLY KILLED MARTIN! I'M CONVINCED THE CORONER'S VERDICT WILL SHOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!

YOU'RE RIGHT! HE PLANNED TO MAIL THE REMAINING DIAMONDS TO YOU, WITH A NOTE SAYING HE WANTED TO GET RID OF THE CURSE... BUT I REALIZED THE CASE WOULDN'T REALLY BE CLOSED UNTIL THE THIEF WAS CAUGHT!

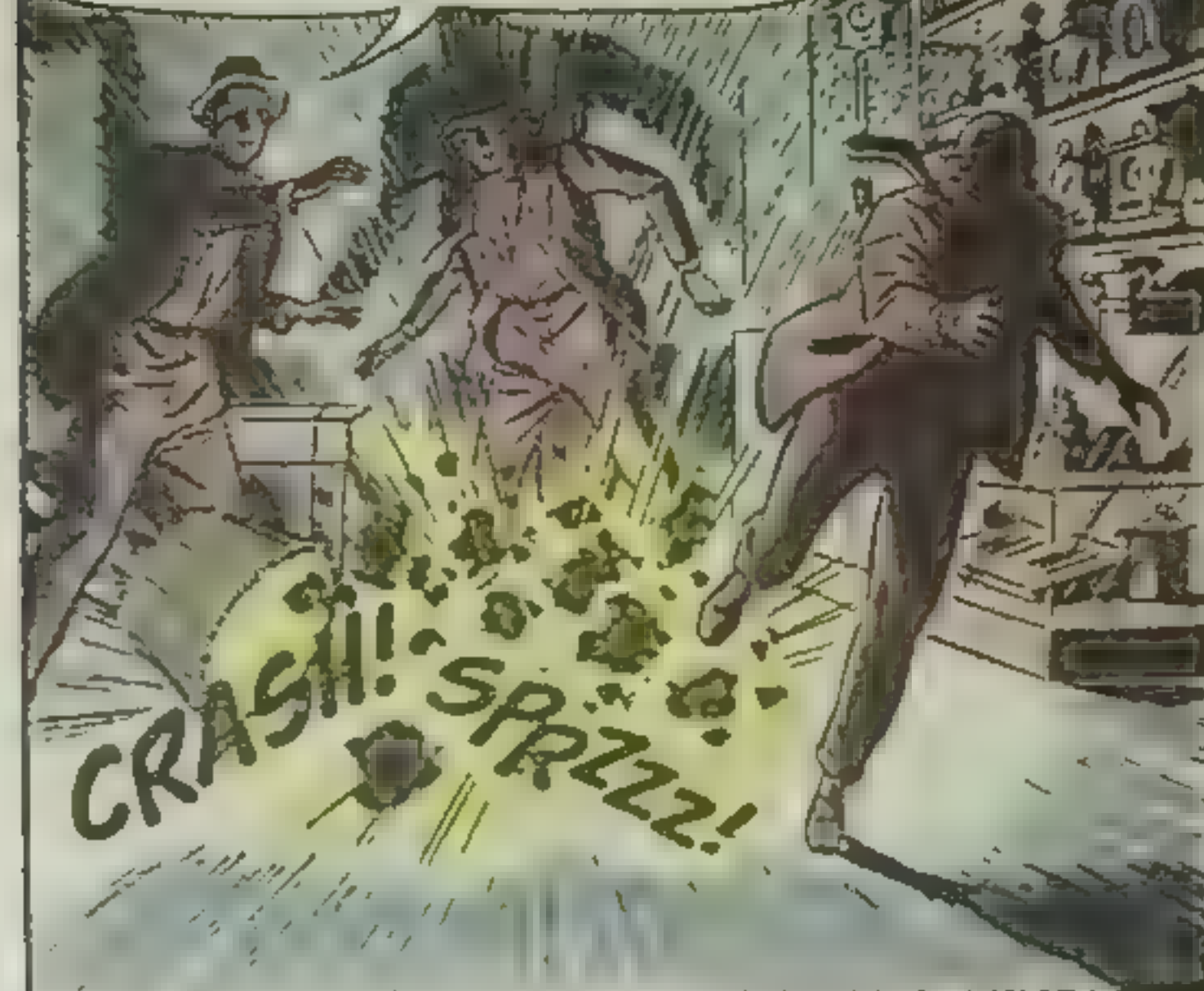


I'VE GOT THE KUNG LO HIDDEN IN THE DRAWER OF THIS TABLE! HERE, I'LL GET IT FOR YOU!

KIRK! HE'S TRYING TO PITCH THAT LAMP OVER!

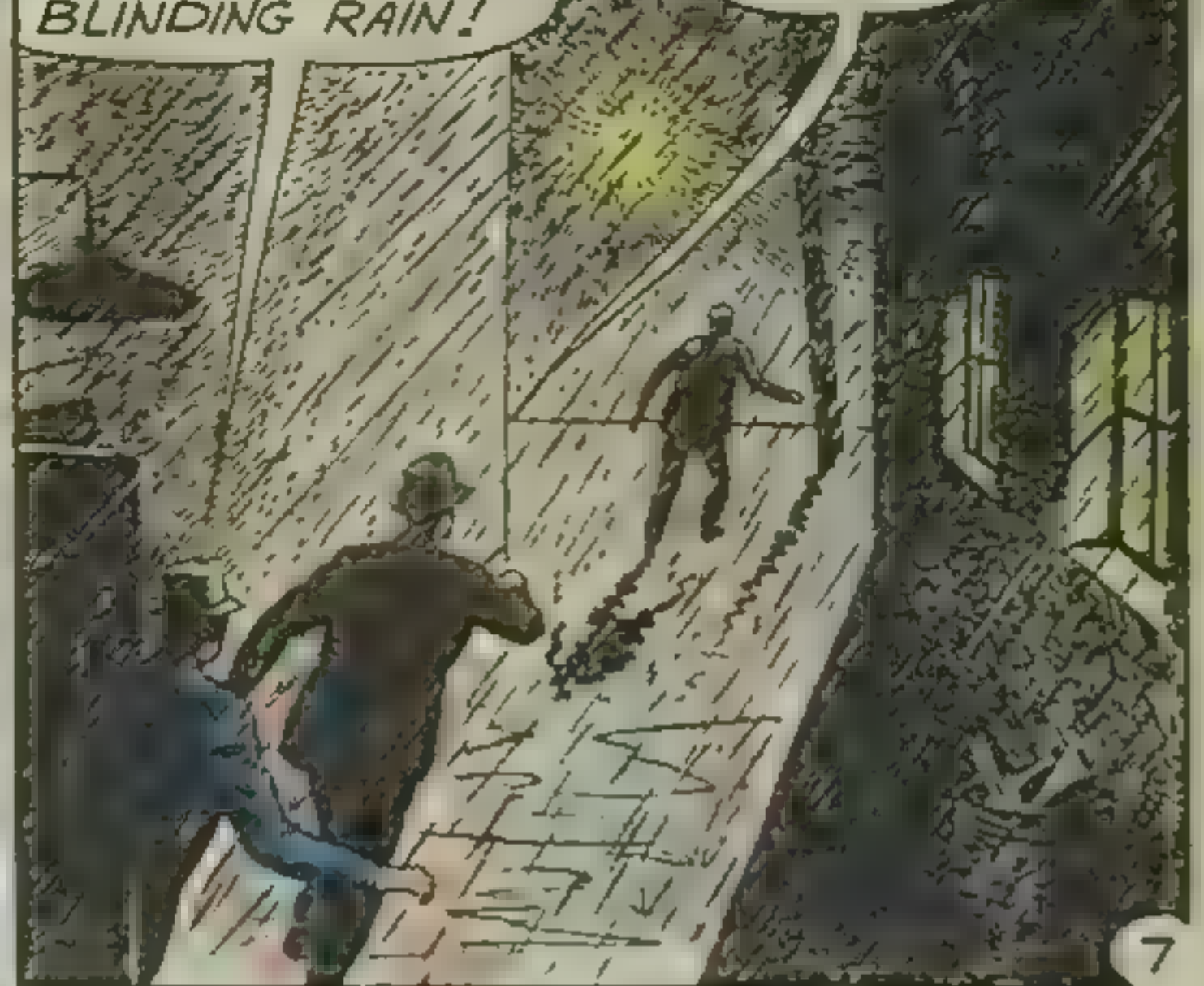


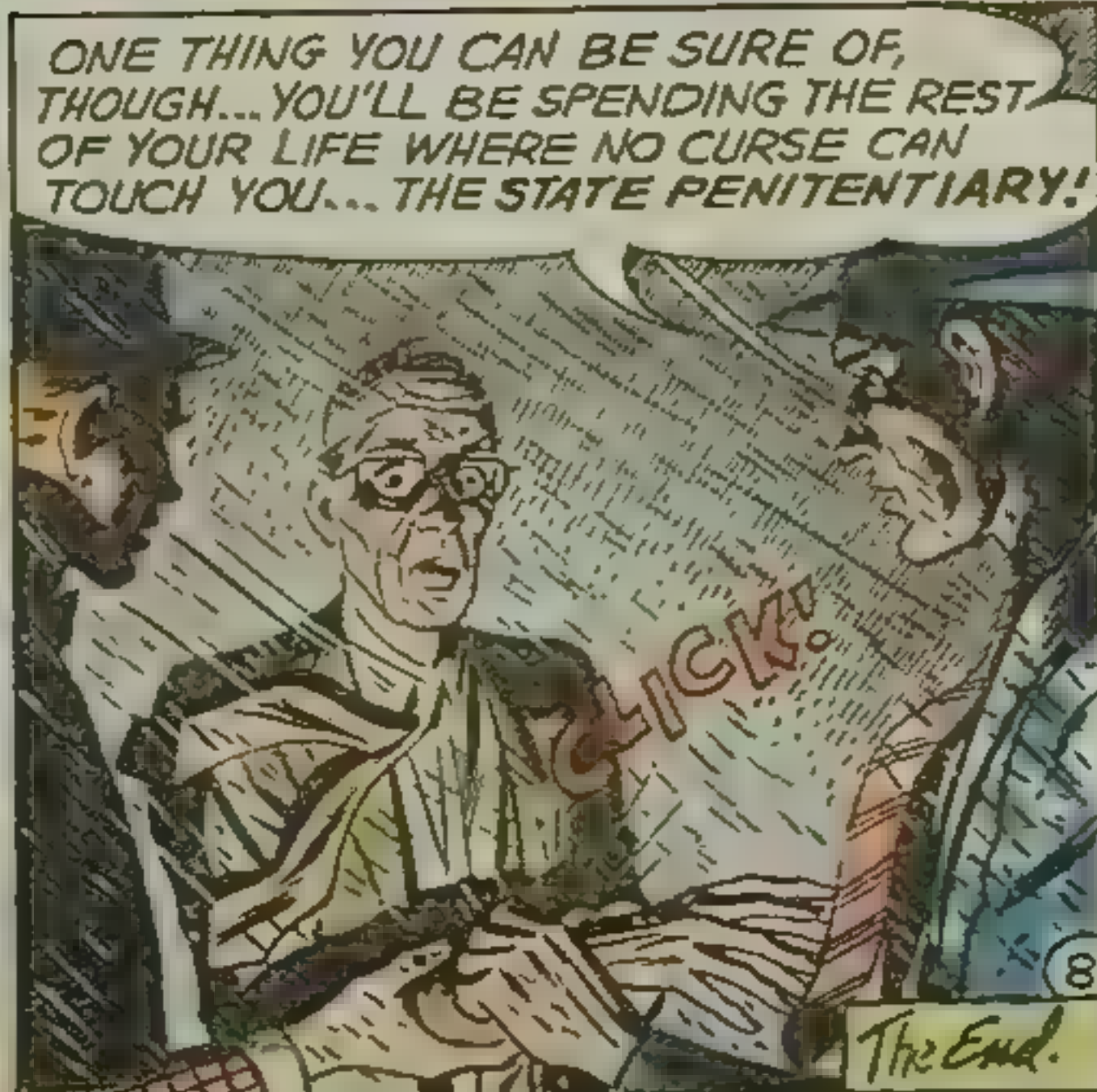
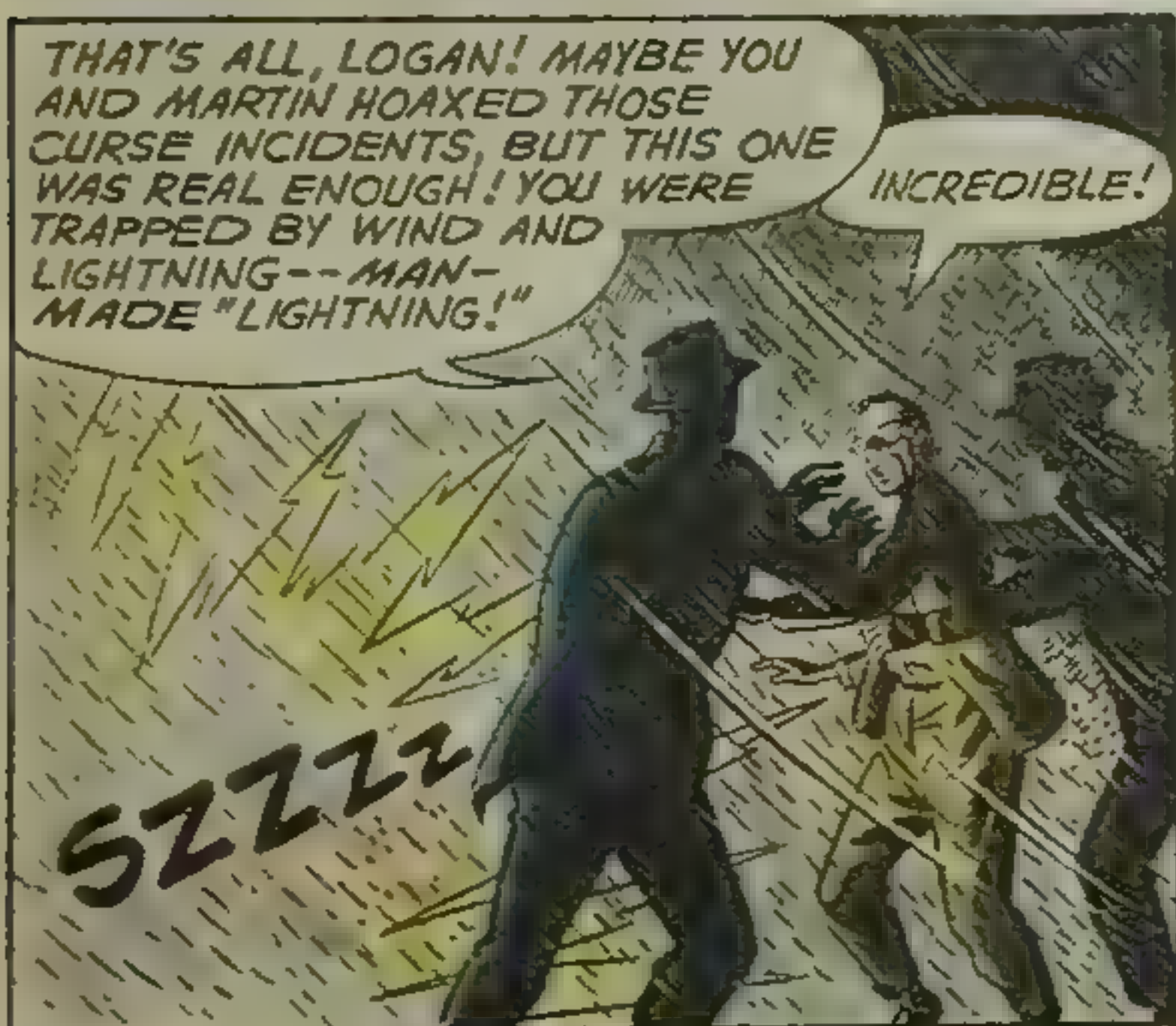
HE GRABBED THE DIAMOND, AND HE'S GETTING AWAY IN THE DARK! AFTER HIM! OUT THE BACK WAY!



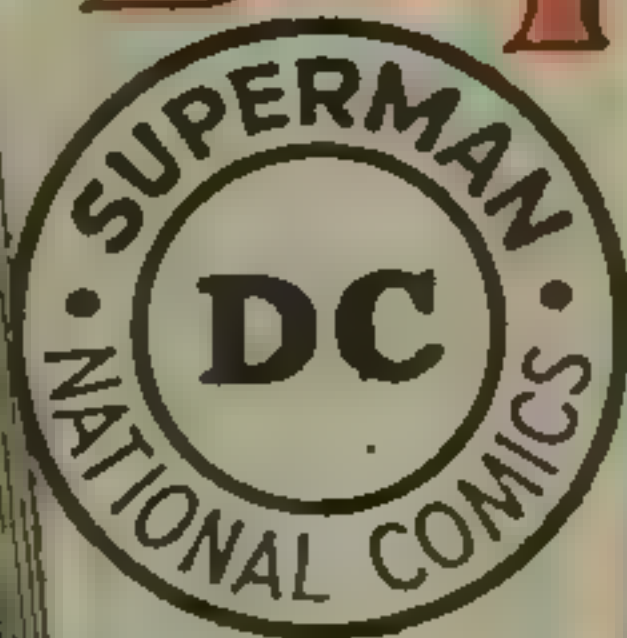
GOT TO NAB HIM FAST, OR WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM IN THIS BLINDING RAIN!

AND HE'S GOT A GOOD LEAD ON US!



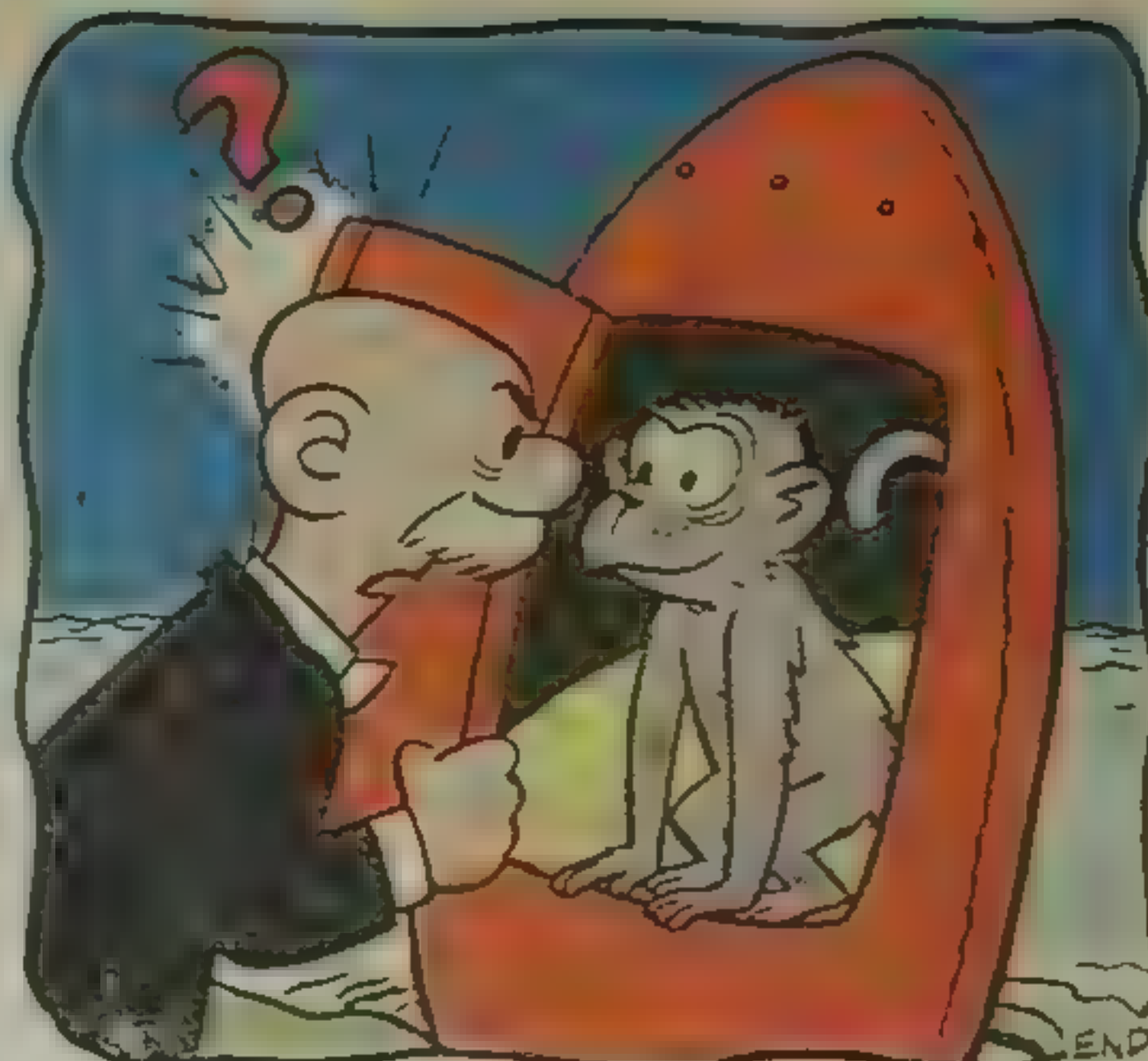
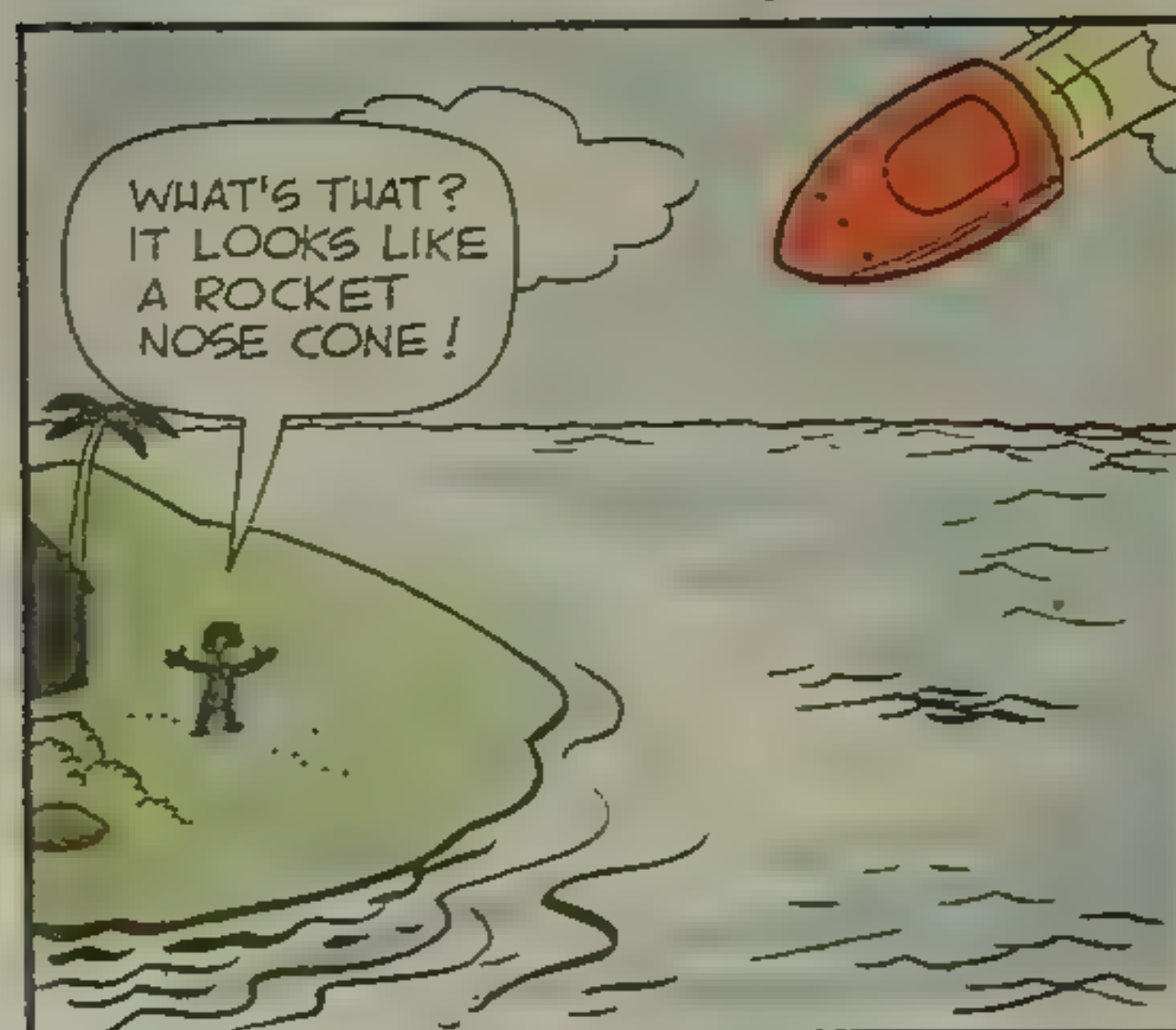
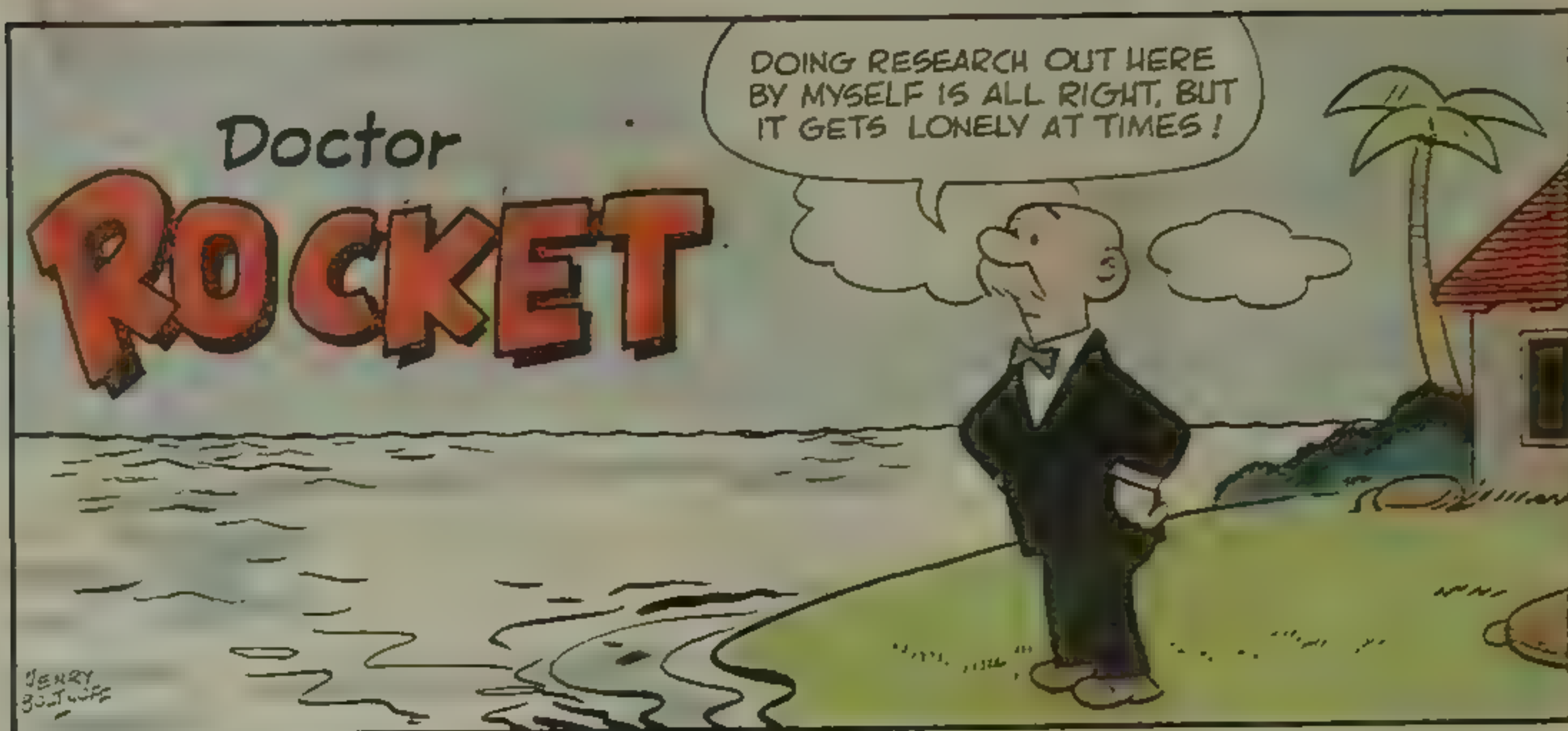


For The
**VERY
BEST**





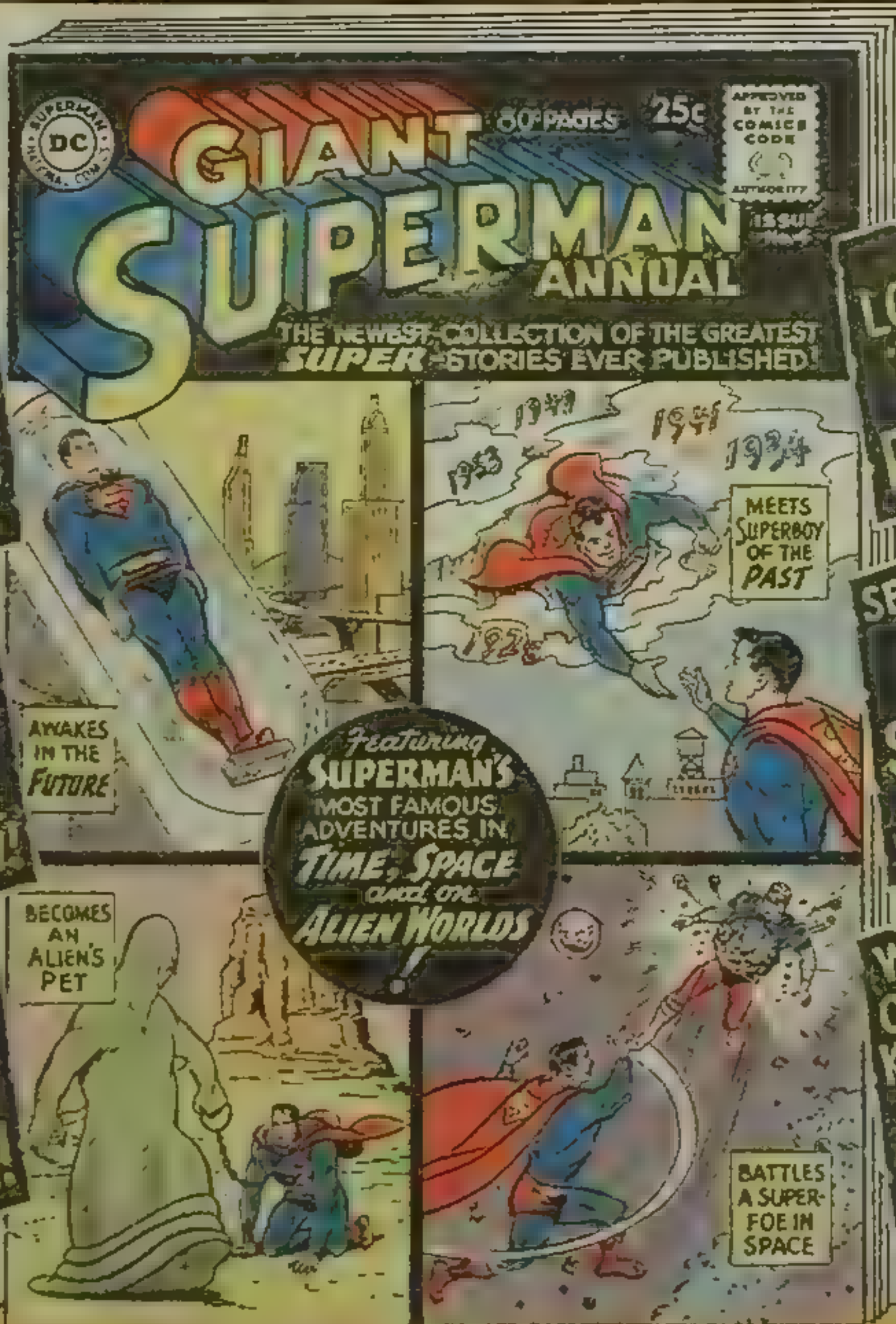
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MEET THE ALIEN WHO CONQUERED SUPERMAN!

SEE LOIS LANE'S ROMANCE WITH FUTUREMAN!

SEE AN AMAZING MEETING BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND SUPERBOY!

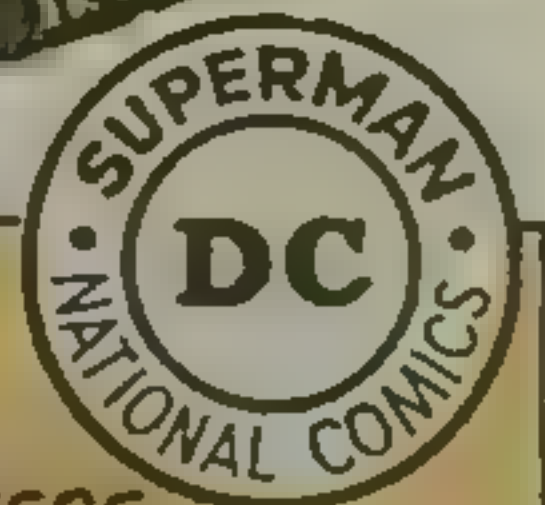
WATCH HOW OUTLAWS FROM KRYPTON BATTLE SUPERMAN IN SPACE!

Extra!

TWO PAGE CENTER SPREAD FEATURING ORIGINS and POWERS of the LEGION of SUPER-HEROES!

ON SALE EVERYWHERE

NOV. 9th



MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING ISLANDS

SOMETIME in the 1860s, a British merchant ship was approaching the Norwegian coast when the captain on the bridge gaped. Off the port bow was an island that he'd never seen on previous voyages.

The captain decided to put ashore a small exploring party when he was scheduled to pass this way on the return trip.

Eight days later, the merchant ship retraced its course, and slowed down when it neared the island's position. But, to the astonishment of the captain, the island was nowhere to be seen. Puzzled beyond words, the captain consulted the chart on which he had marked down the position. There was no mistake about the position. The island had simply vanished. And it was never again seen.

History records countless other cases of islands which continued to appear and disappear. In 1953, two small twin islands in the East Siberian Sea vanished 10 days after having been sighted by a Russian fishing trawler. Neither one was identified as the island which suddenly materialized a year later in the Beaufort Sea, 1000 miles north of Alaska.

Up until 1870, every seaman was familiar with a group of unexplored islands that lay in a cluster in the South Atlantic Ocean. Then, one by one, the islands began to vanish. No one ever saw any of them in the actual process of disappearing from view, or floating away. But, from time to time, a captain would return to port with the announcement that another one of the island group had vanished.

This group of islands became known as the "Phantom Islands" of the Atlantic, and the last one, called "Brazil Rock," disappeared sometime in the early 1870s, and was removed from the Admiralty charts of all the nations in 1873.

Scientists, while offering no definite proof or evidence for their theory, are inclined to believe that the islands, being actually the top surfaces of underwater mountains, somehow broke loose from their base, and simply

floated away, or sank into the sea. An under-sea quake, they reason, might create such a phenomenon.

But if this theory is correct, how does one explain the amazing phenomenon of the Belcher Islands which, in the 1600s, occupied a vast area of water in southern Hudson Bay?

Seamen all over the world were astonished when they first learned that these islands had completely vanished. In time, as more and more ships joined what amounted to a continuous traffic through the bay, the Belcher Islands were not only forgotten but were officially disowned as having been purely imaginary.

The consensus was that these islands never did exist.

Then, in 1915, the Belcher Islands suddenly reappeared—in the same place where they had been reported three centuries before! One of the islands measured 50 miles long, and the total area of the islands measured some 4,700 square miles! Where had they been all these years? No one knows.

Just as puzzling is the opposite experience of the Aurora Islands in the South Atlantic, east of the Falklands.

The Aurora Islands had originally been discovered in 1762 by the Spanish ship *Aurora*, whose captain named the islands after his ship. The Aurora Islands were again observed in 1790 by the English ship *Princess*.

Then, in 1794, the islands were officially surveyed by the crew of the hydrographic corvette *Atrevida*. This was followed by an exploration of the Auroras conducted by the Royal Hydrographical Society of Madrid in 1809, and the issuance of a paper containing vivid descriptions and detailed scientific data of the islands.

But, since that time, the Auroras have never been seen, and endless searches for them have been fruitless. They now belong to the numerous islands of history that have vanished.



HOUSE OF SECRETS



ONCE AGAIN, MARK MERLIN, INTREPID INVESTIGATOR OF THE SUPERNATURAL, MUST BATTLE FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST THE UNKNOWN. BUT THIS TIME, IF HE SUCCEEDS, HE IS STILL THE LOSER--FOR THE OUTCOME OF A SINISTER CRIMINAL PLOT DEPENDS ON MARK'S DEFEATING...

the **GUARDIAN LION-MAN**

THE WINDMILL'S
BLADES HAVE CHANGED
TO TENTACLES--AND
ARE STRETCHING OUT
TO SEIZE US! REACH
INTO THAT SORCERER'S
BAG, MARK MERLIN,
AND STOP THEM!

IF I DON'T OBEY,
ELSA WILL BE IN
DEADLY DANGER!
BUT... IF I DO--I'LL
BE HELPING YOU
COMMIT THE GREATEST
CRIME OF THE
CENTURY!

A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY



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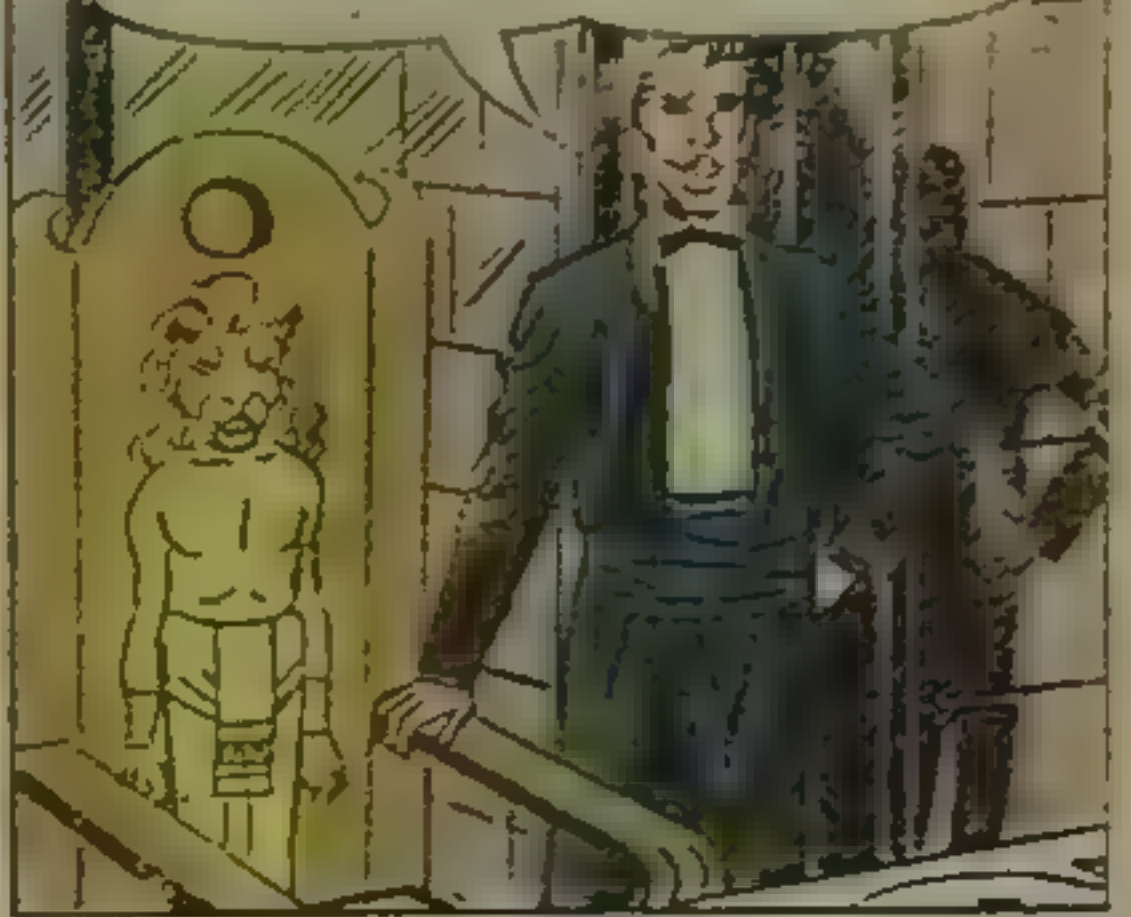
A STRANGE LEGEND BRINGS MARK MERLIN, FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, AND HIS SECRETARY, ELSA, TO THE TINY, ANCIENT LAND OF SAN MORRO...

SIGNOR MERLIN HAS COME TO DO RESEARCH INTO OUR NATURAL PROTECTOR, E. LEONE, PRINCE RUFO!

A SPLENDID IDEA, COUNT TASSINI--THE ORIGINS OF EL LEONE ARE LOST IN HISTORY!



SIGNOR MERLIN--NO SUCCESSFUL CRIME HAS EVER BEEN COMMITTED IN SAN MORRO! EACH TIME, EL LEONE--THE LION-MAN--THWARTS ANY CRIMINAL'S ESCAPE WITH HIS MYSTERIOUS POWERS!



"CENTURIES AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, AN EVIL THIEF ROBBED MY ANCESTRAL CASTLE OF A RARE RELIC, AND WAS ESCAPING TOWARD THE BORDER, WHEN SUDDENLY..."

YIII! THE ROAD RISES AND SPIRALS UNDER MY MOUNT'S HOOFES...



"THAT ROAD OF SOLID COBBLES LIFTED AND SPIRALED INTO THE VERY AIR SO THAT FINALLY..."

...AND DEPOSITS ME RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE KING'S MEN!

EL LEONE CAUSED THE ROAD TO BEHAVE SO, THIEVING NOBLE!



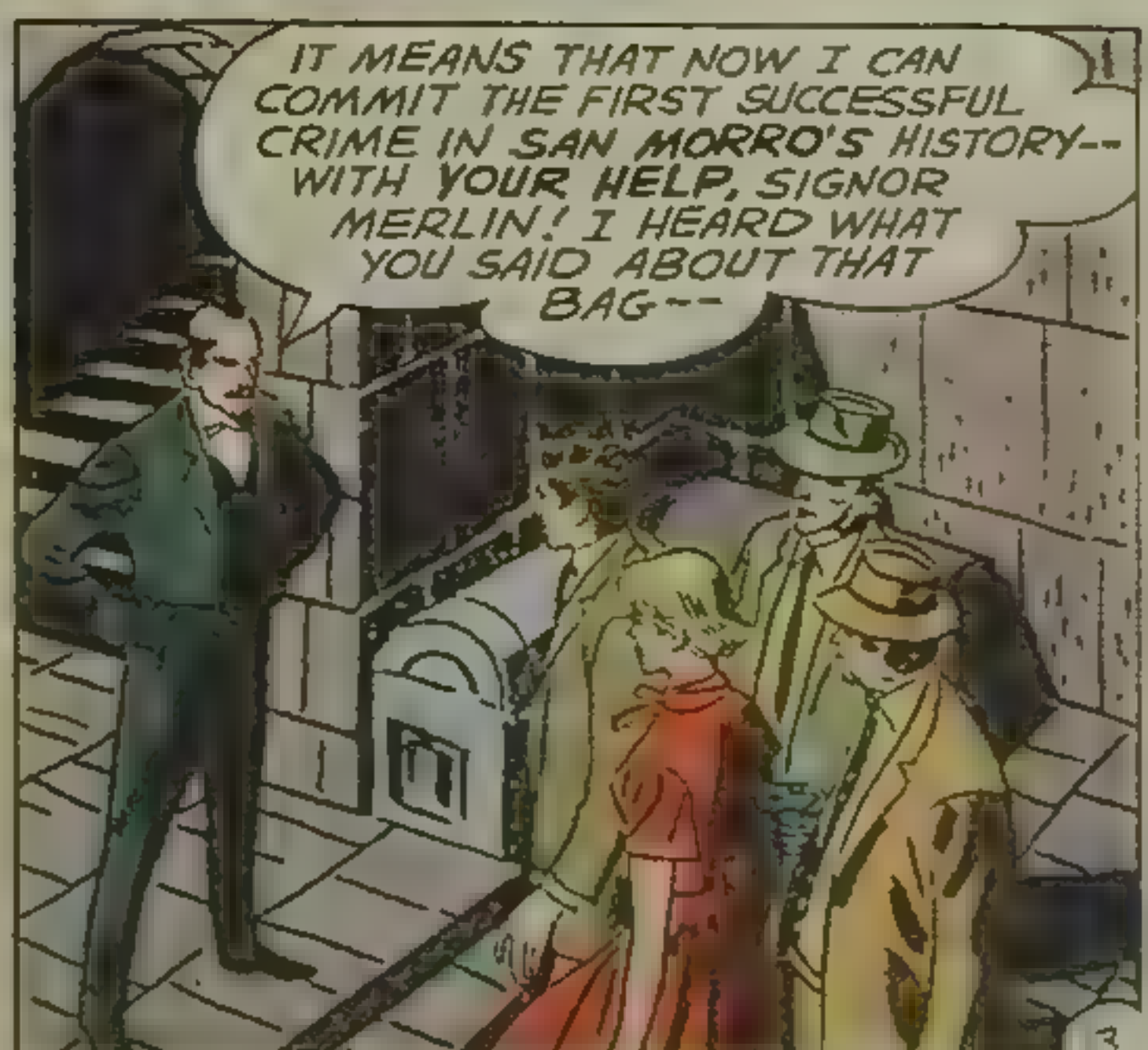
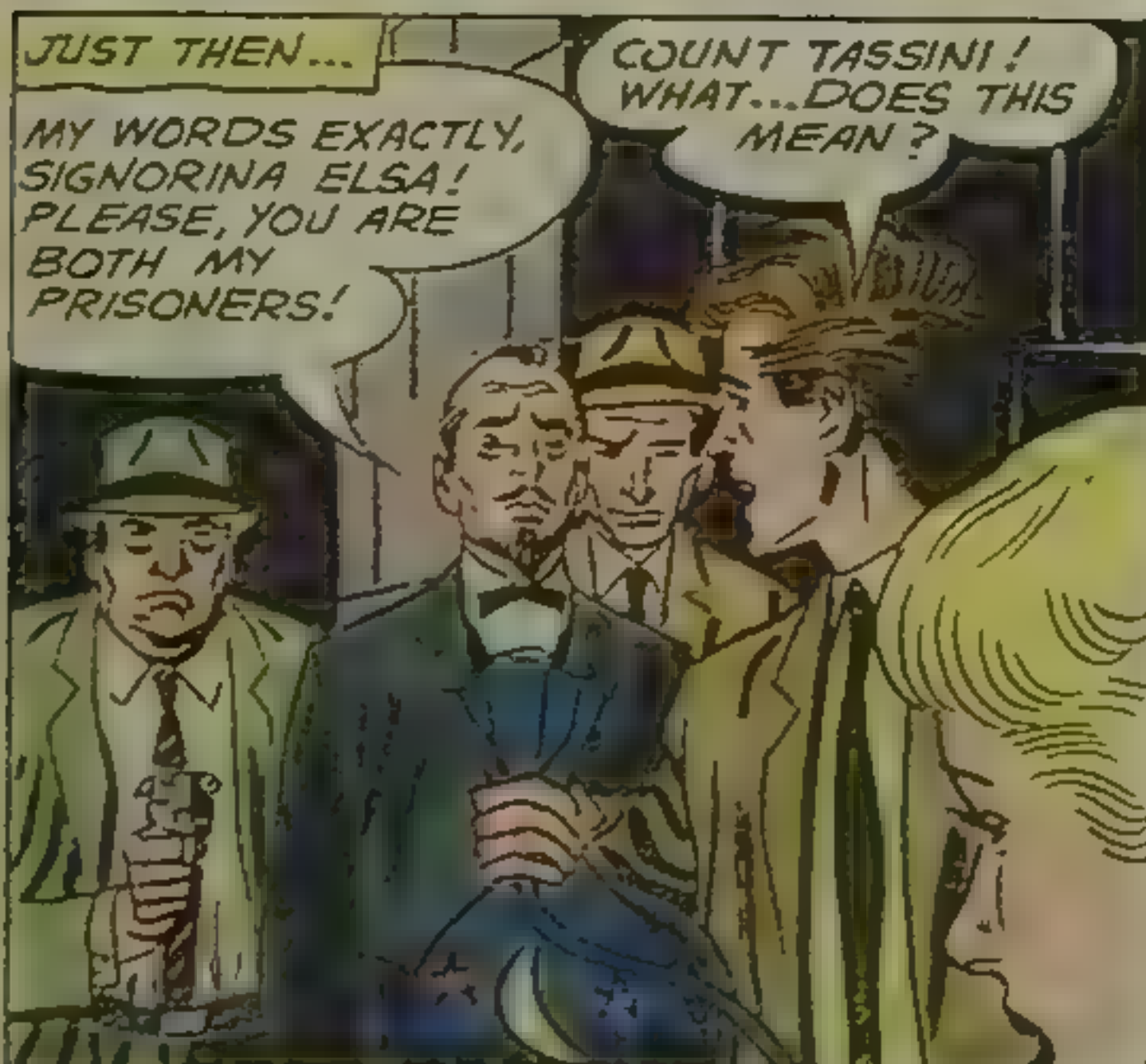
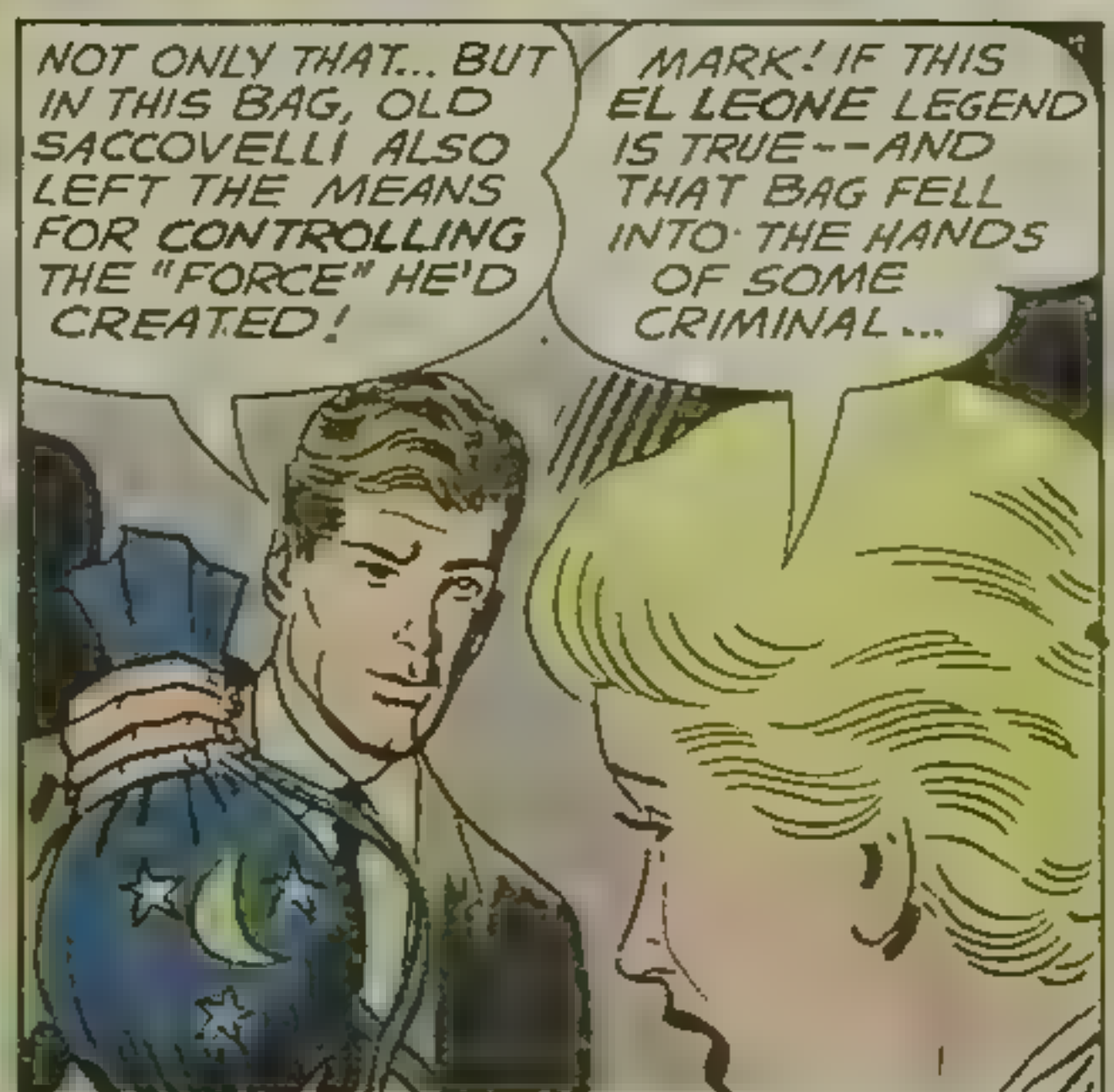
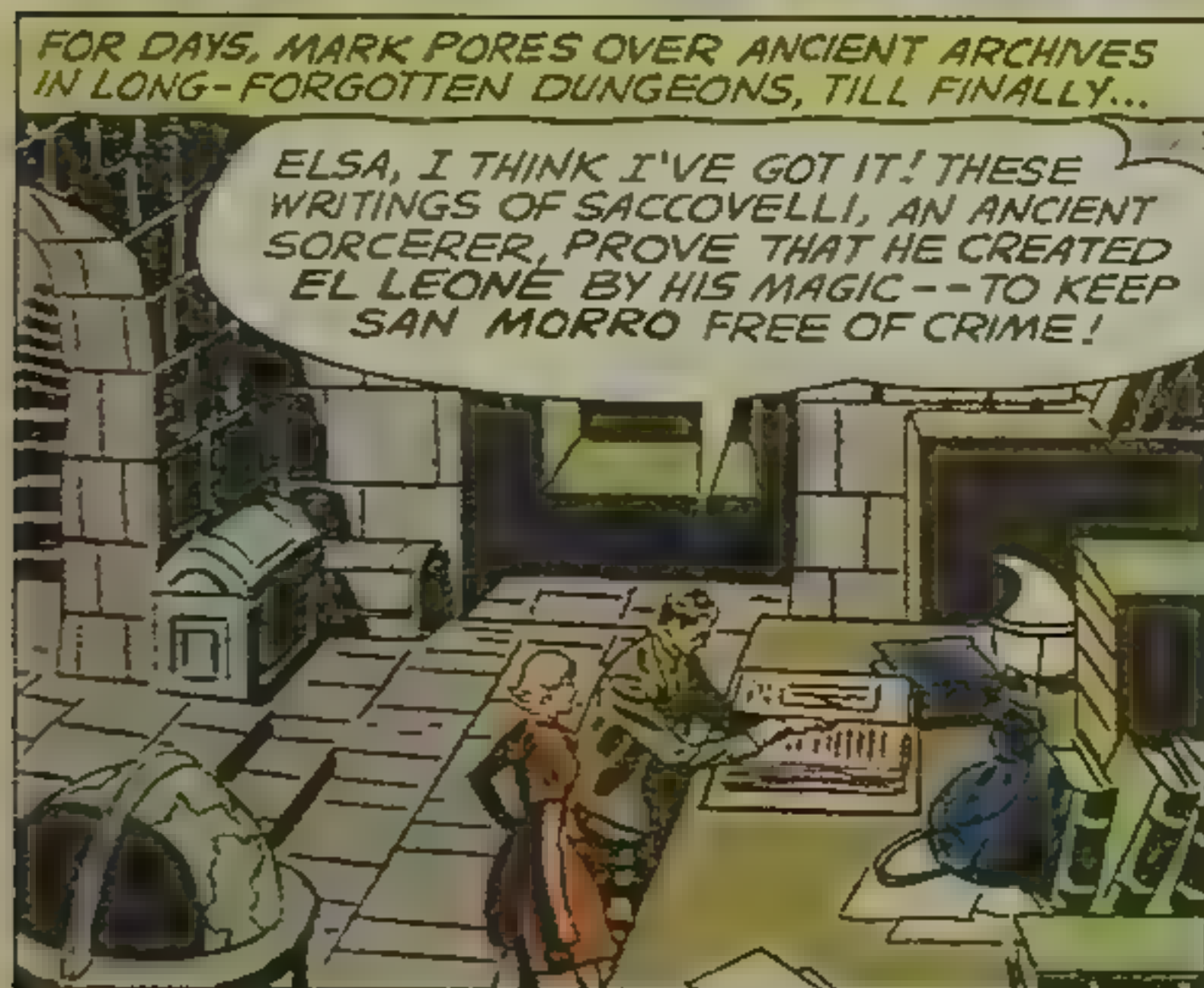
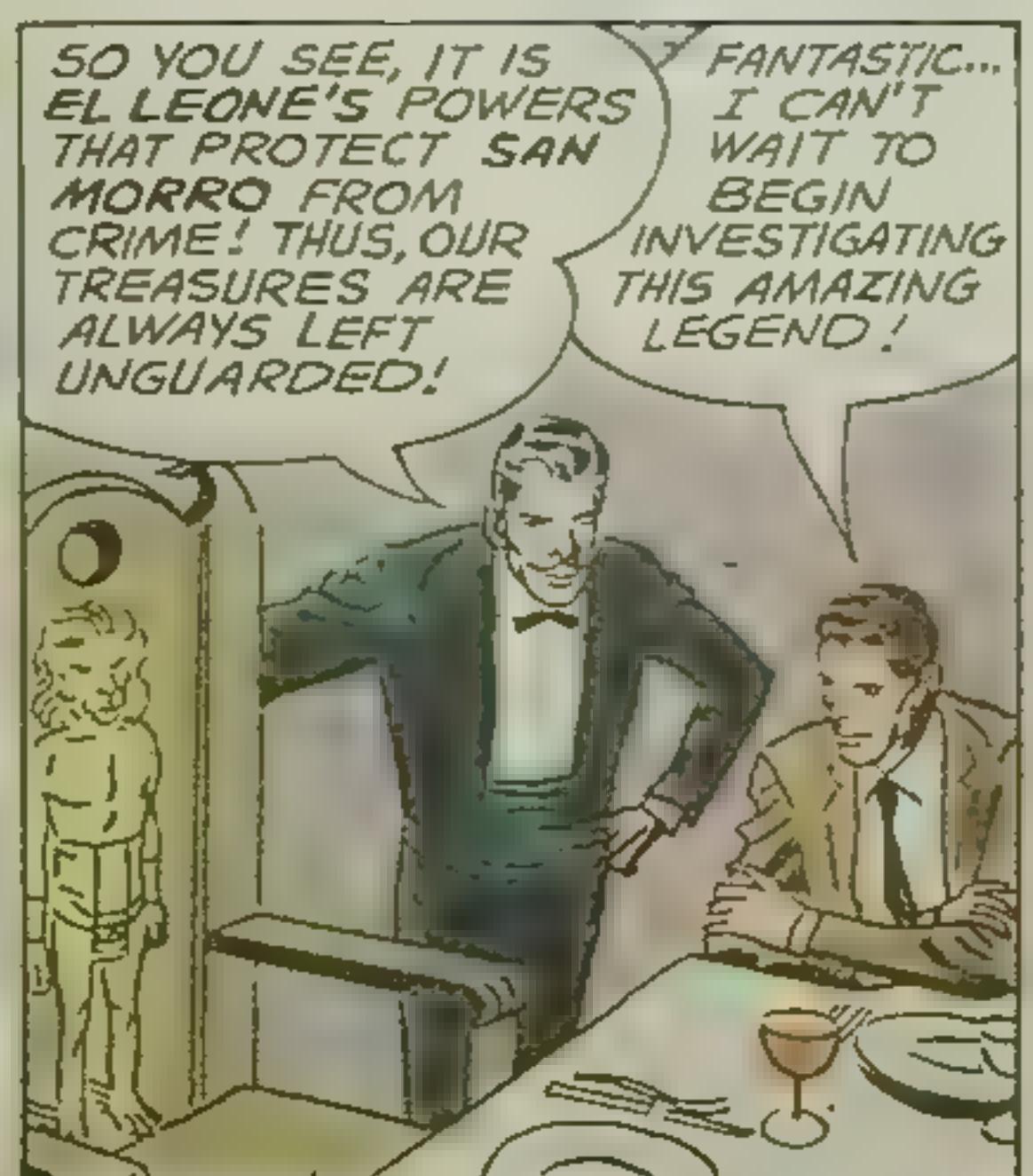
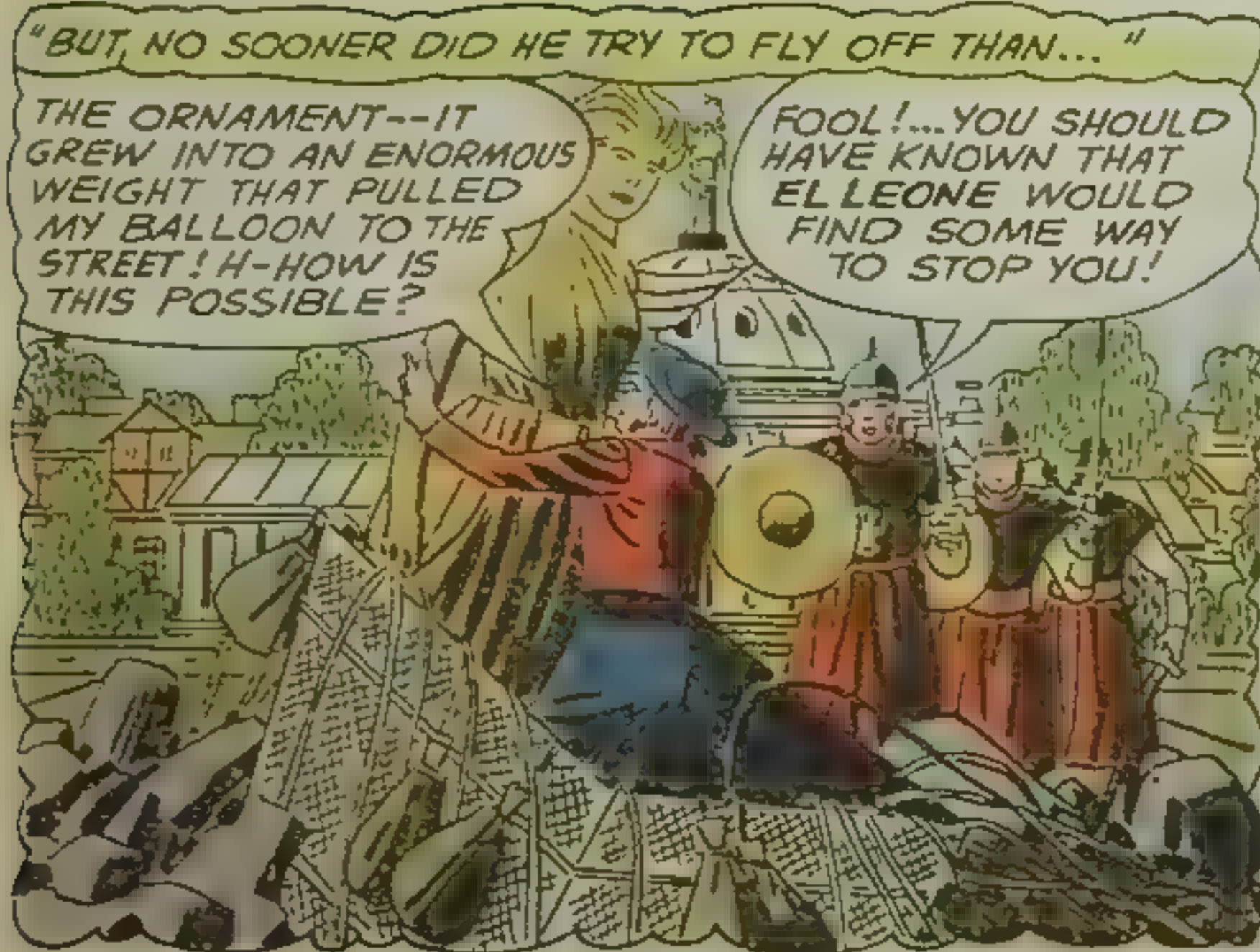
"NOT TILL MANY YEARS LATER DID ANOTHER CRIMINAL TRY TO THWART EL LEONE--BY MEANS OF A BALLOON..."

THIS GOLD STATUETTE WILL BE THE PRIZE OF MY COLLECTION! AND SO EASY TO TAKE, IN A COUNTRY WHERE THERE ARE NO POLICE!



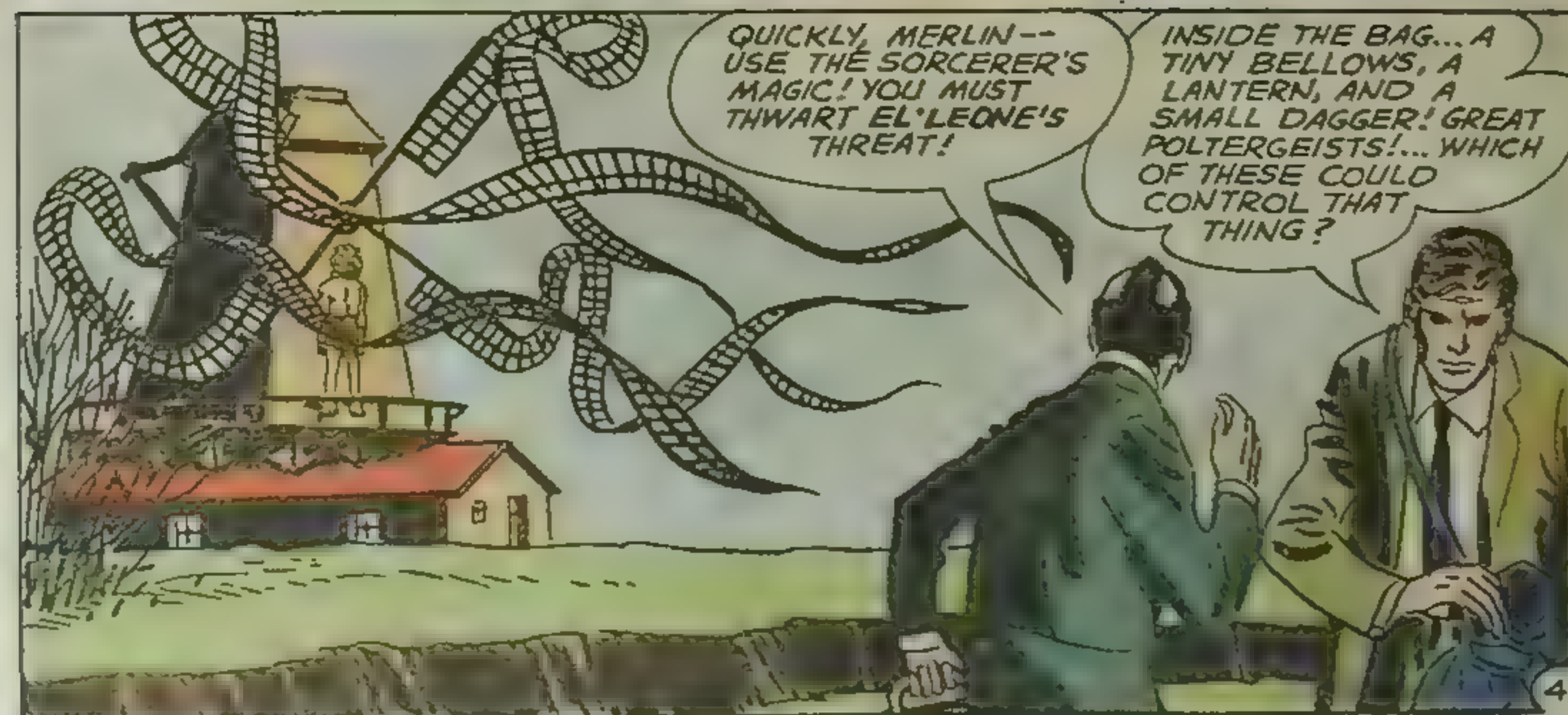
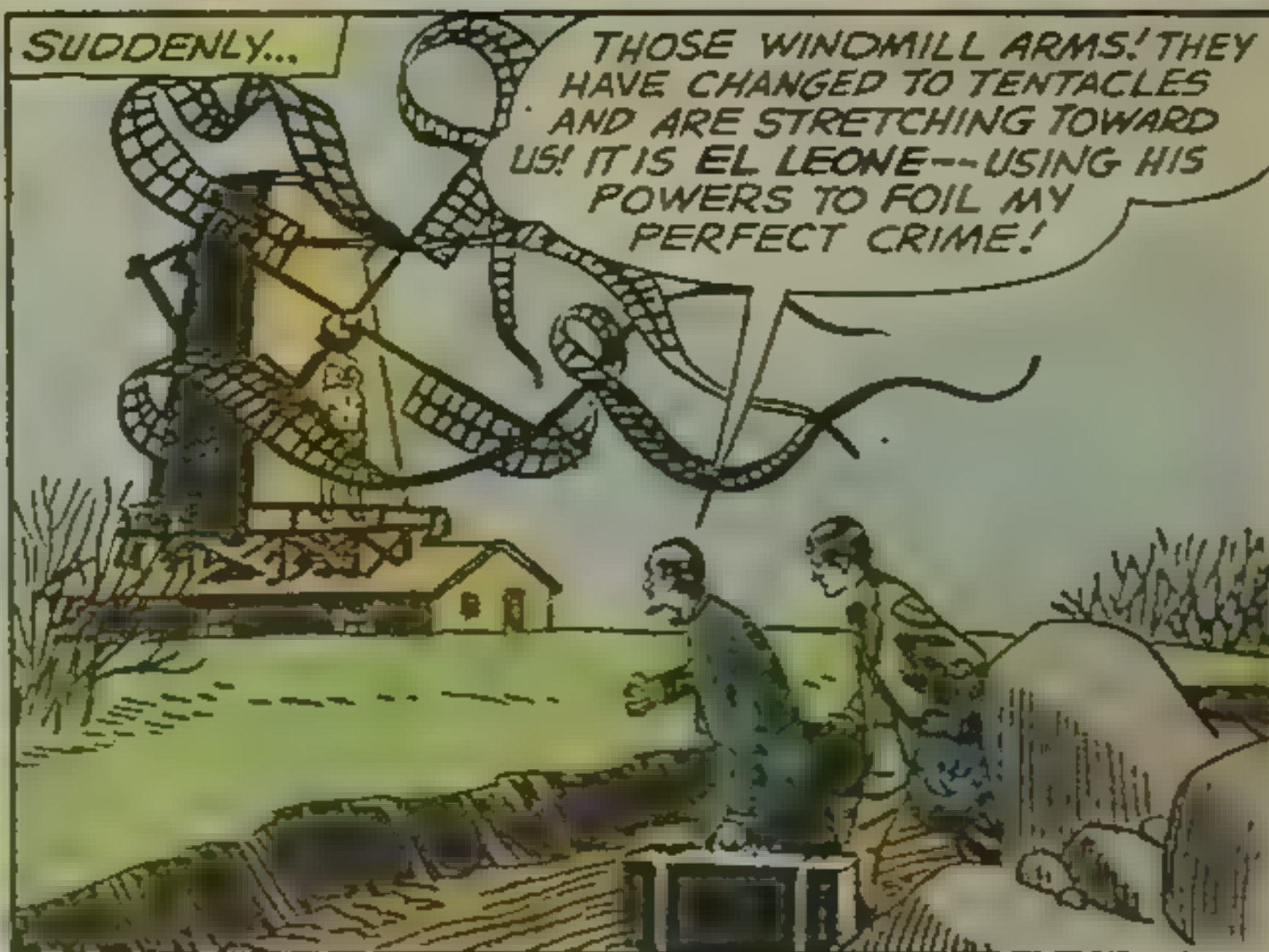
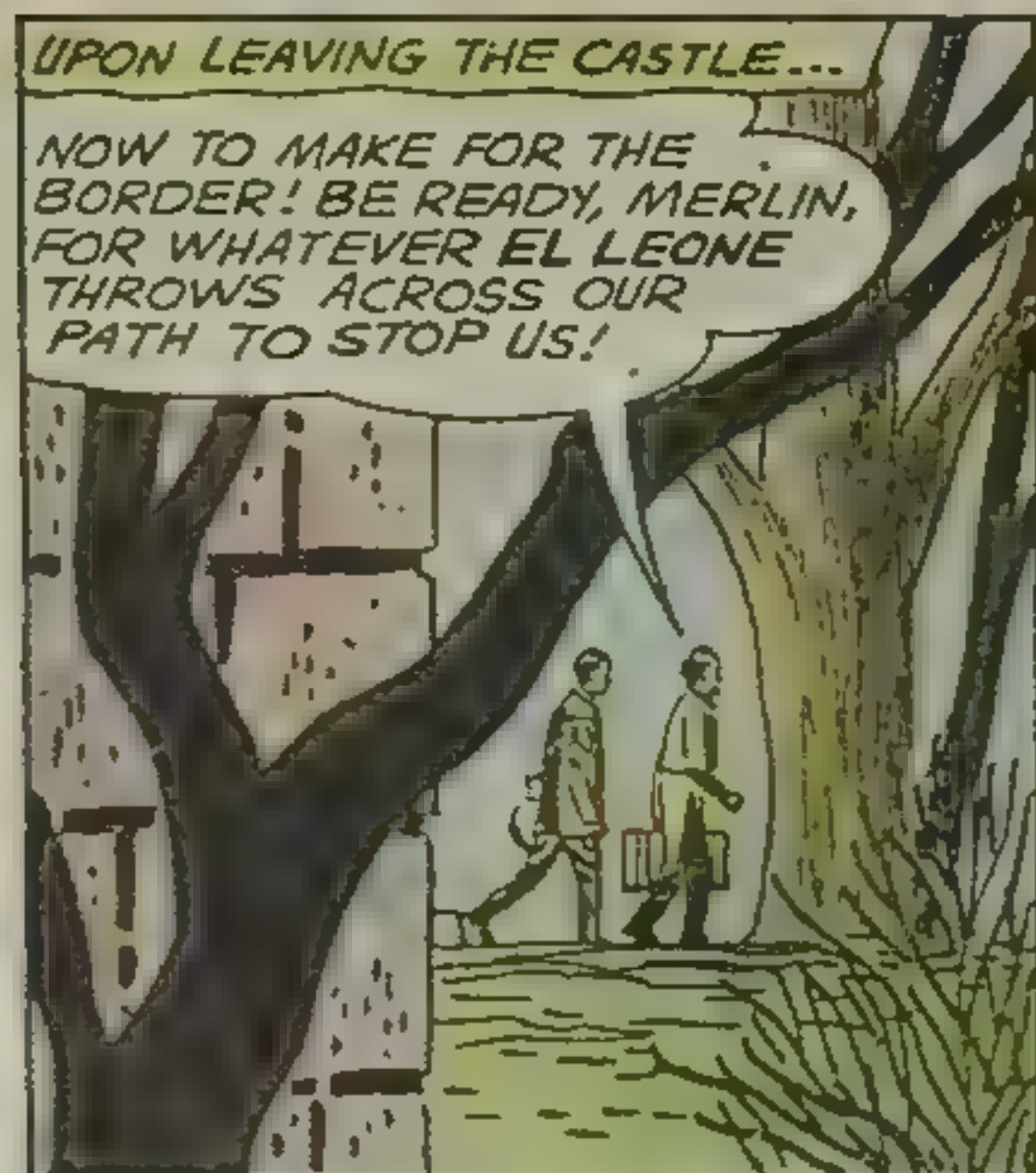
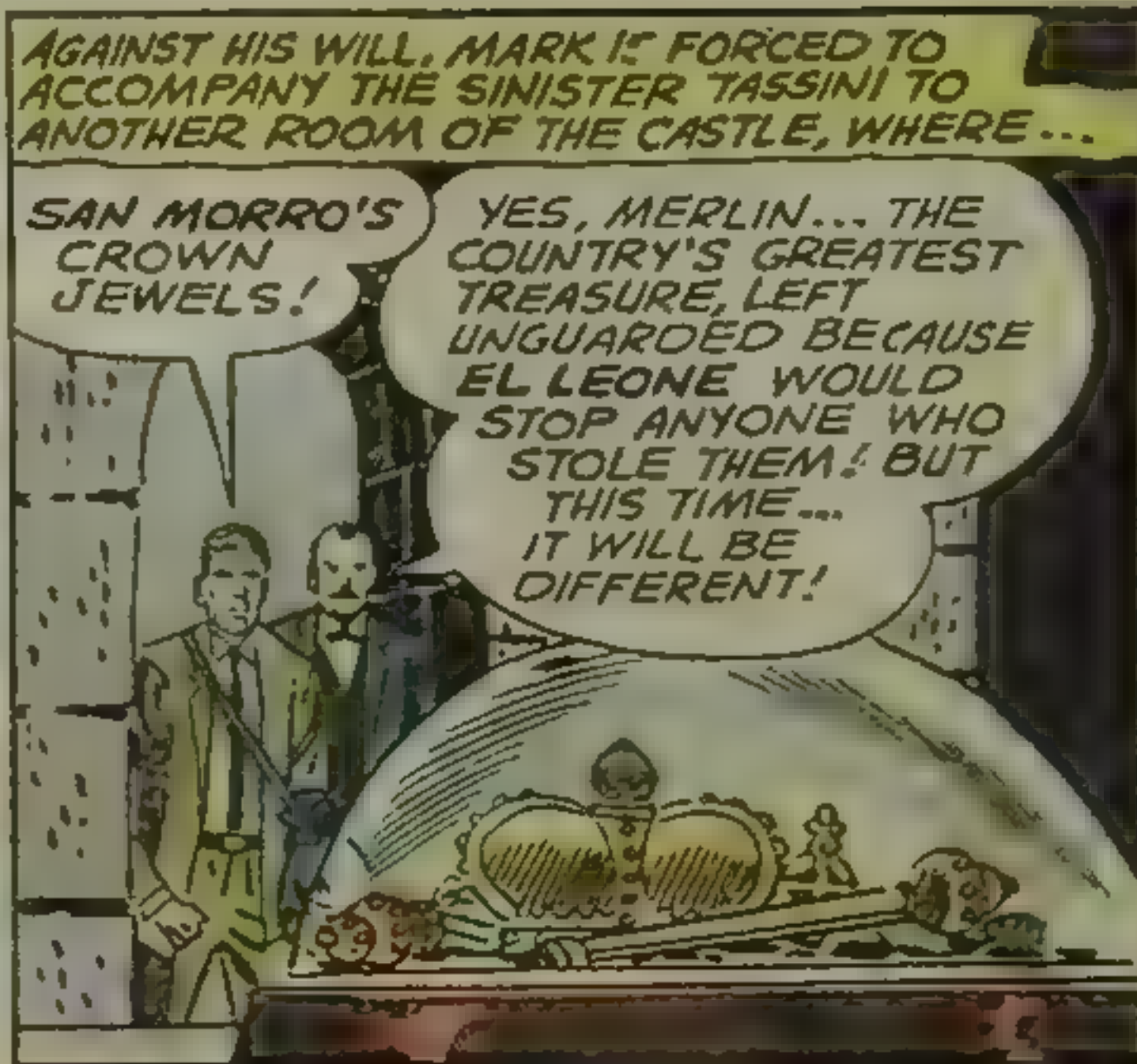
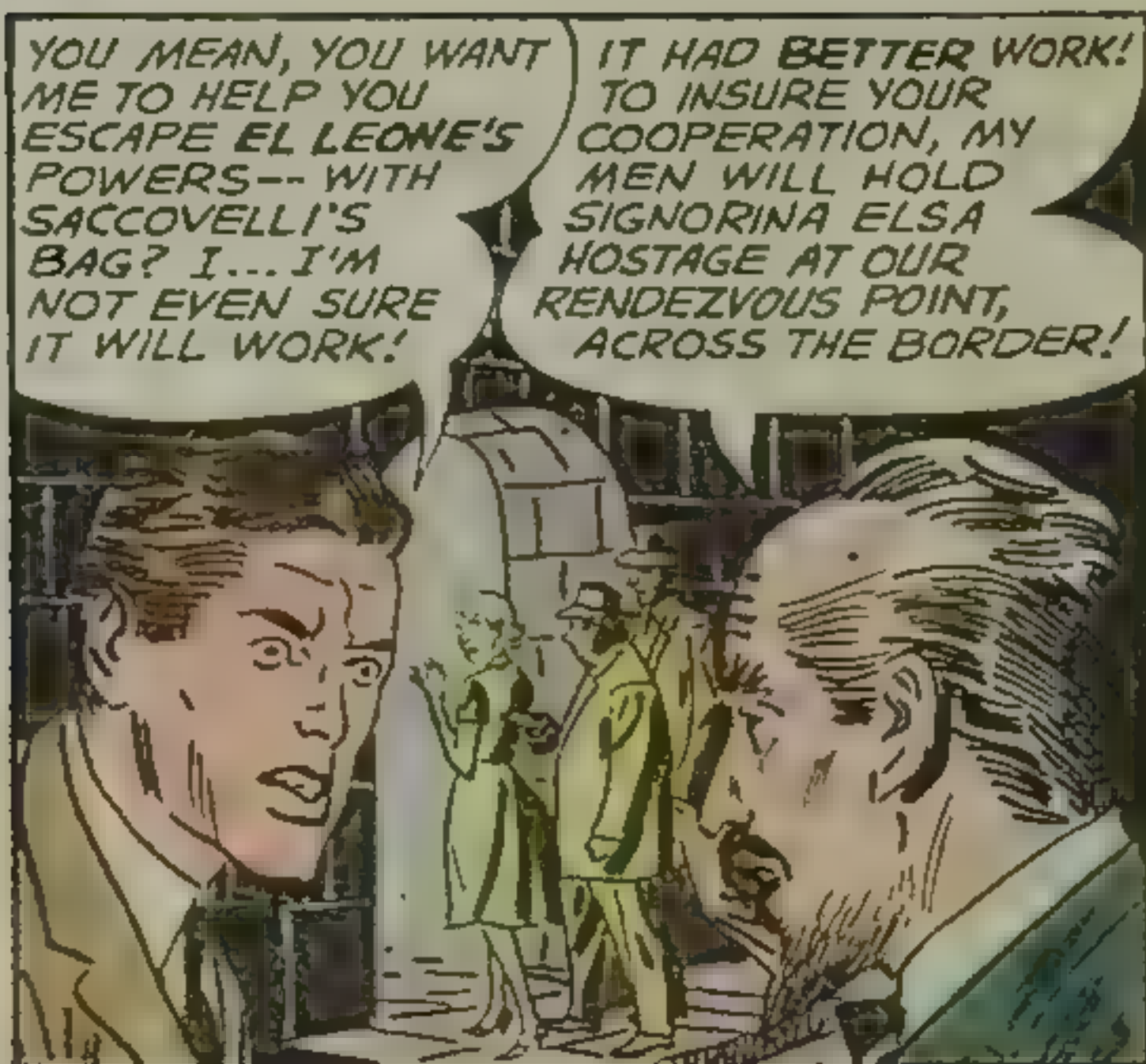


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WITH ONLY HIS WITS TO GUIDE HIM, MARK SEIZES THE TINY BELLOWS, AND...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MERLIN? THAT BELLOWS COULD NOT BLOW OUT EVEN A CANDLE!



BUT A MOMENT LATER...

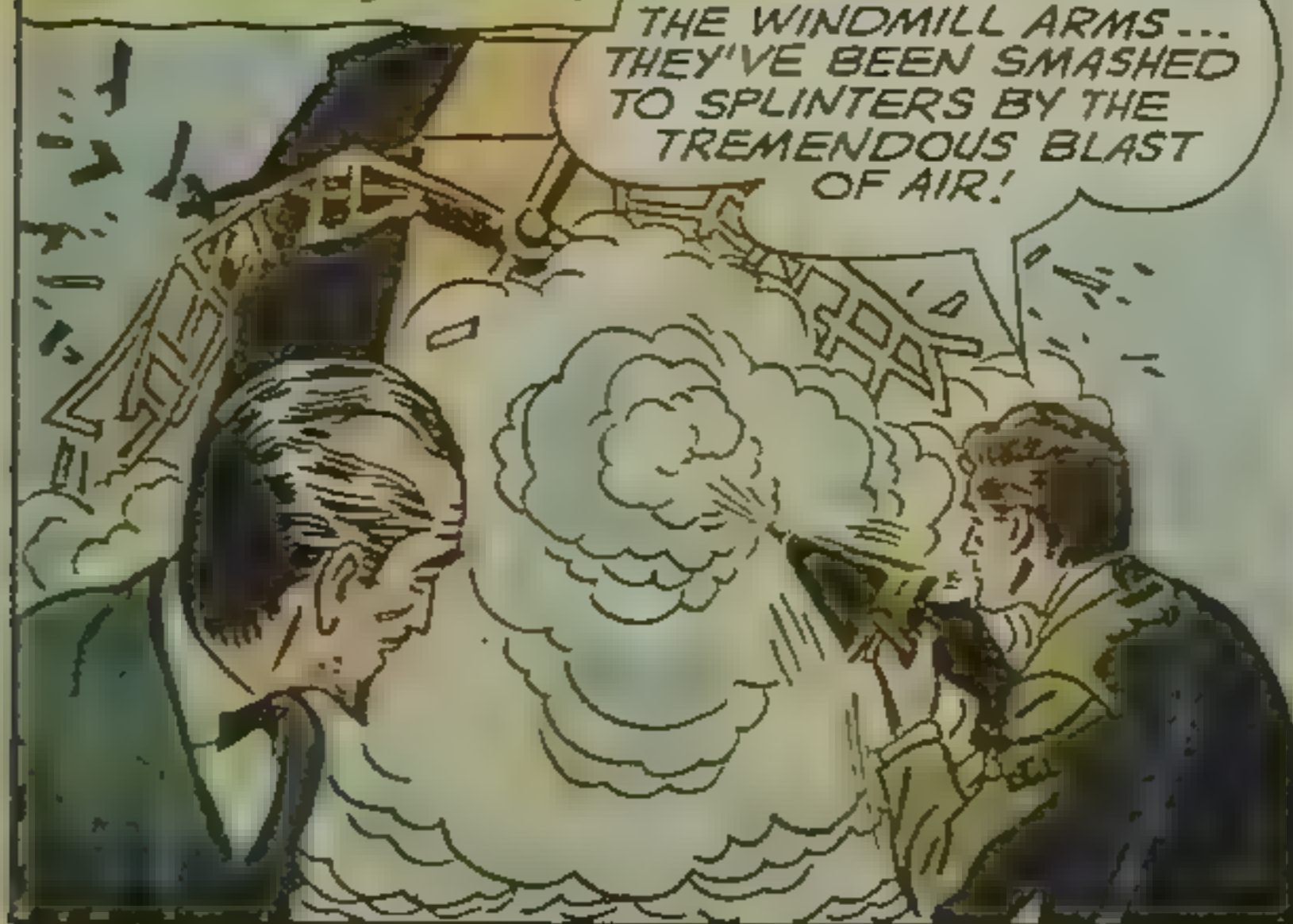
JUST AS I'D HOPED... THE BELLOWS--IT'S CREATING A MUCH GREATER WIND NOW!

IT'S BLOWING THOSE CLUTCHING ARMS BACK AWAY FROM US!



HARDER AND HARDER MARK PUMPS THE WINDMAKER, UNTIL...

THE WINDMILL ARMS... THEY'VE BEEN SMASHED TO SPLINTERS BY THE TREMENDOUS BLAST OF AIR!



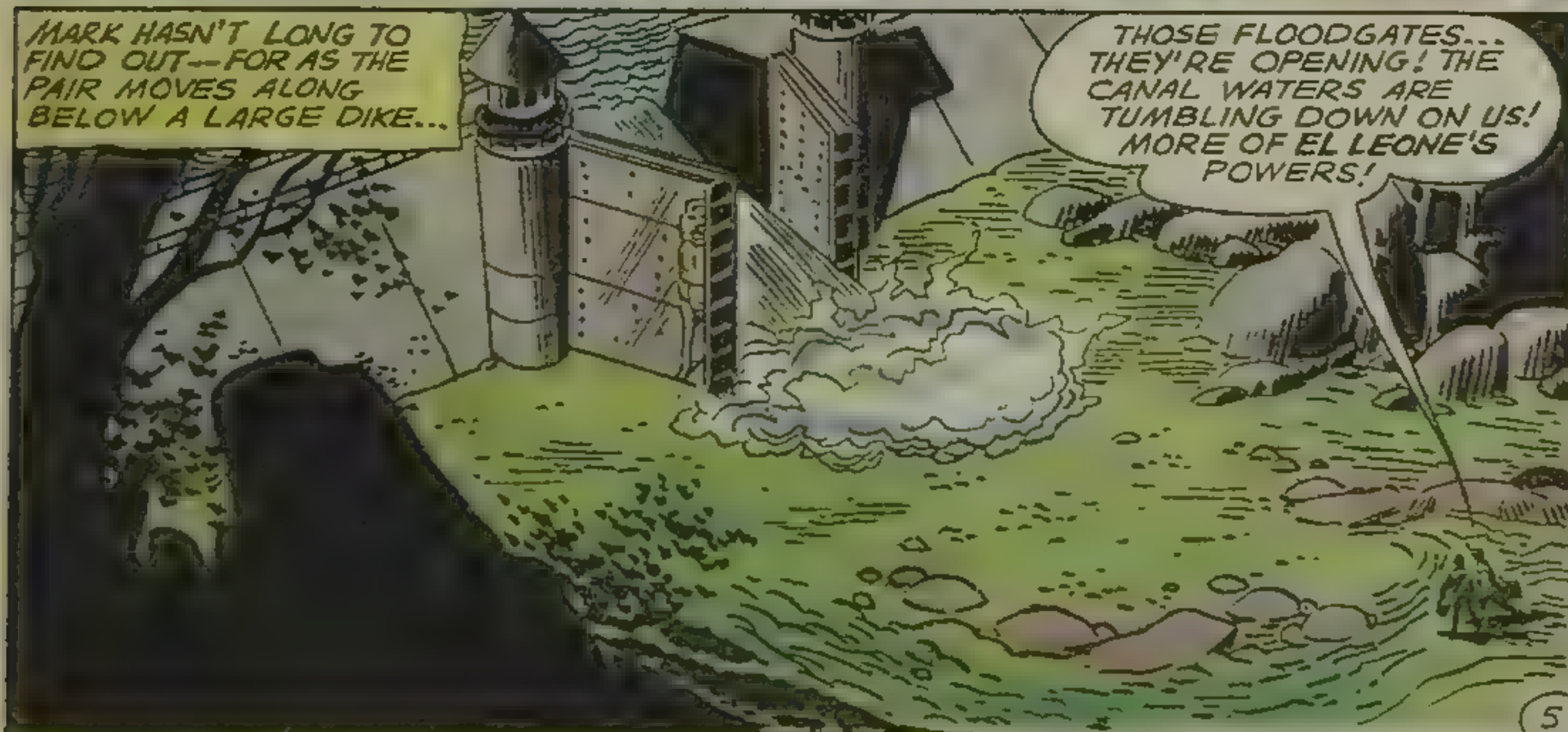
YOU CHOSE WELL, SIGNOR MERLIN--WE HAVE WON OUR FIRST BATTLE WITH EL LEONE!

YES, THE COUNTER-POWERS OLD SACCOVELLI LEFT IN THIS BAG SEEM TO WORK ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW DO I KNOW I CAN CONTROL THE NEXT THREAT?



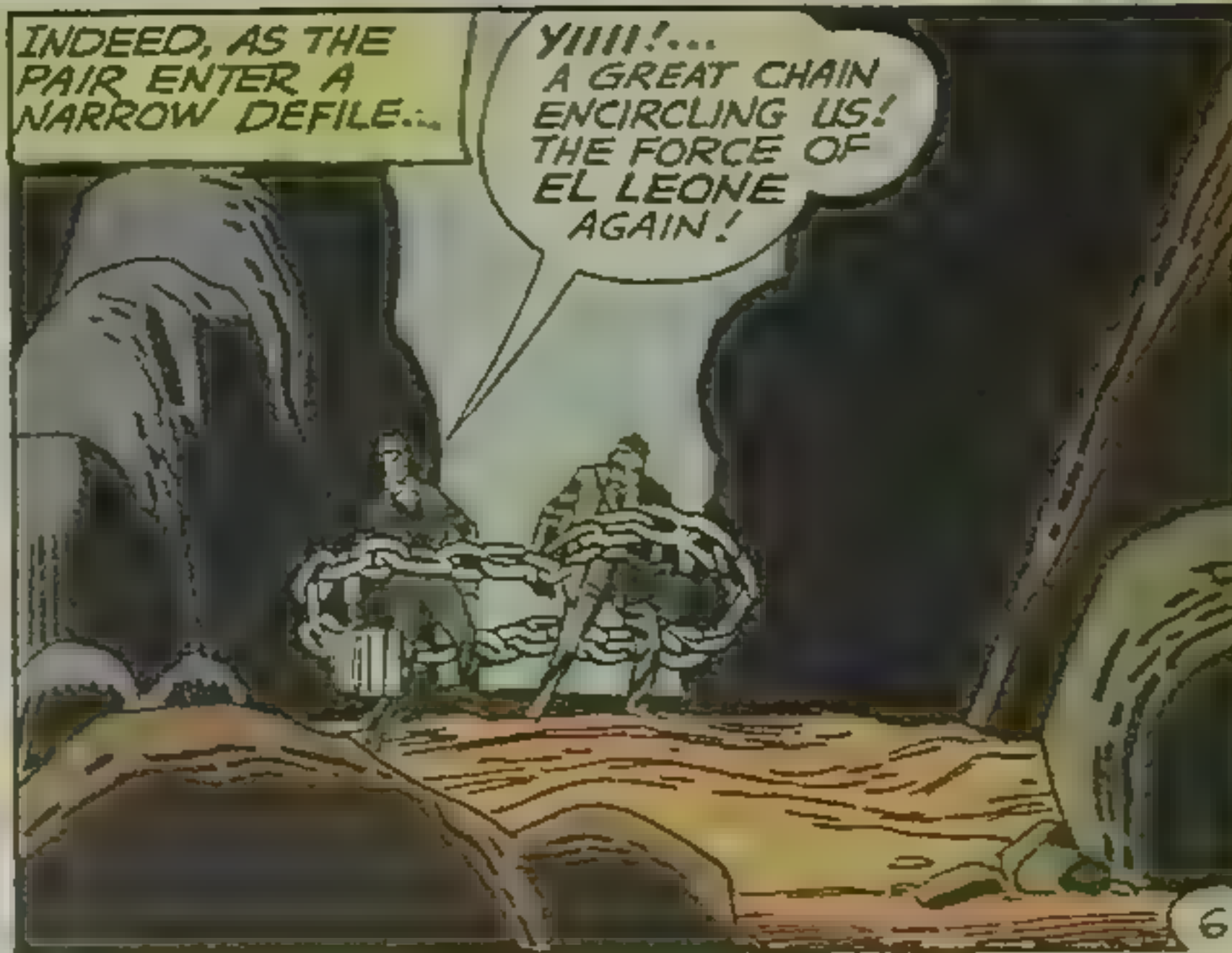
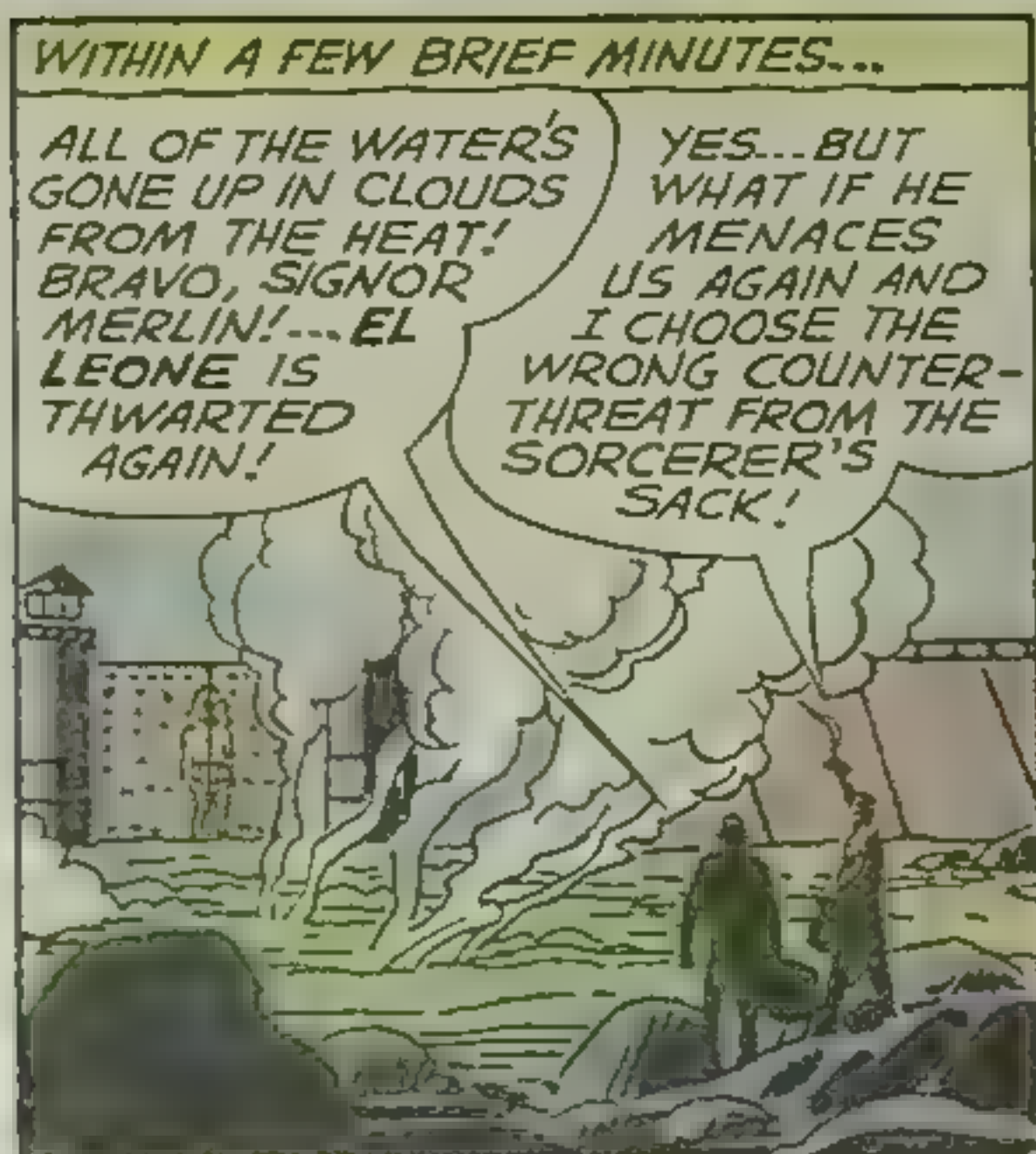
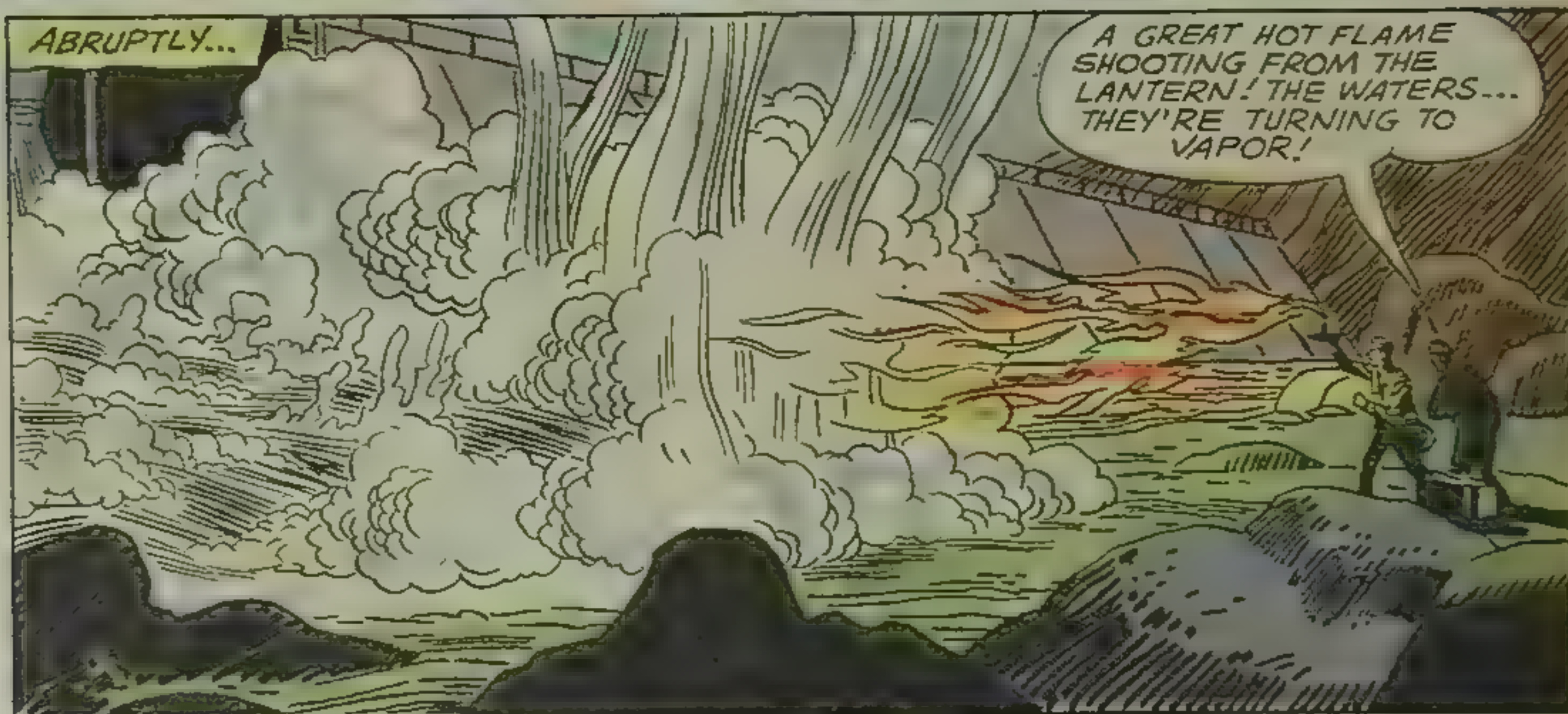
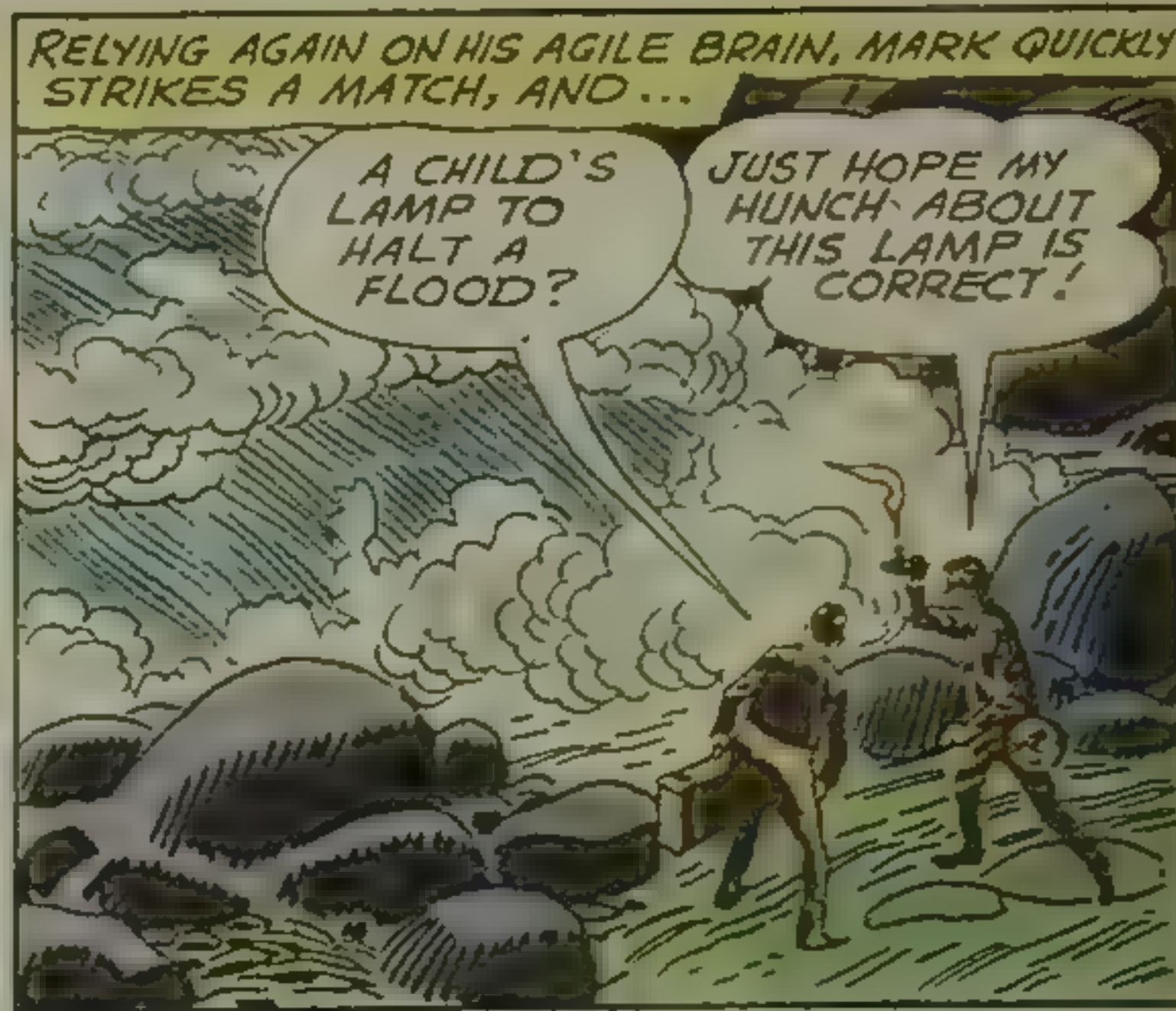
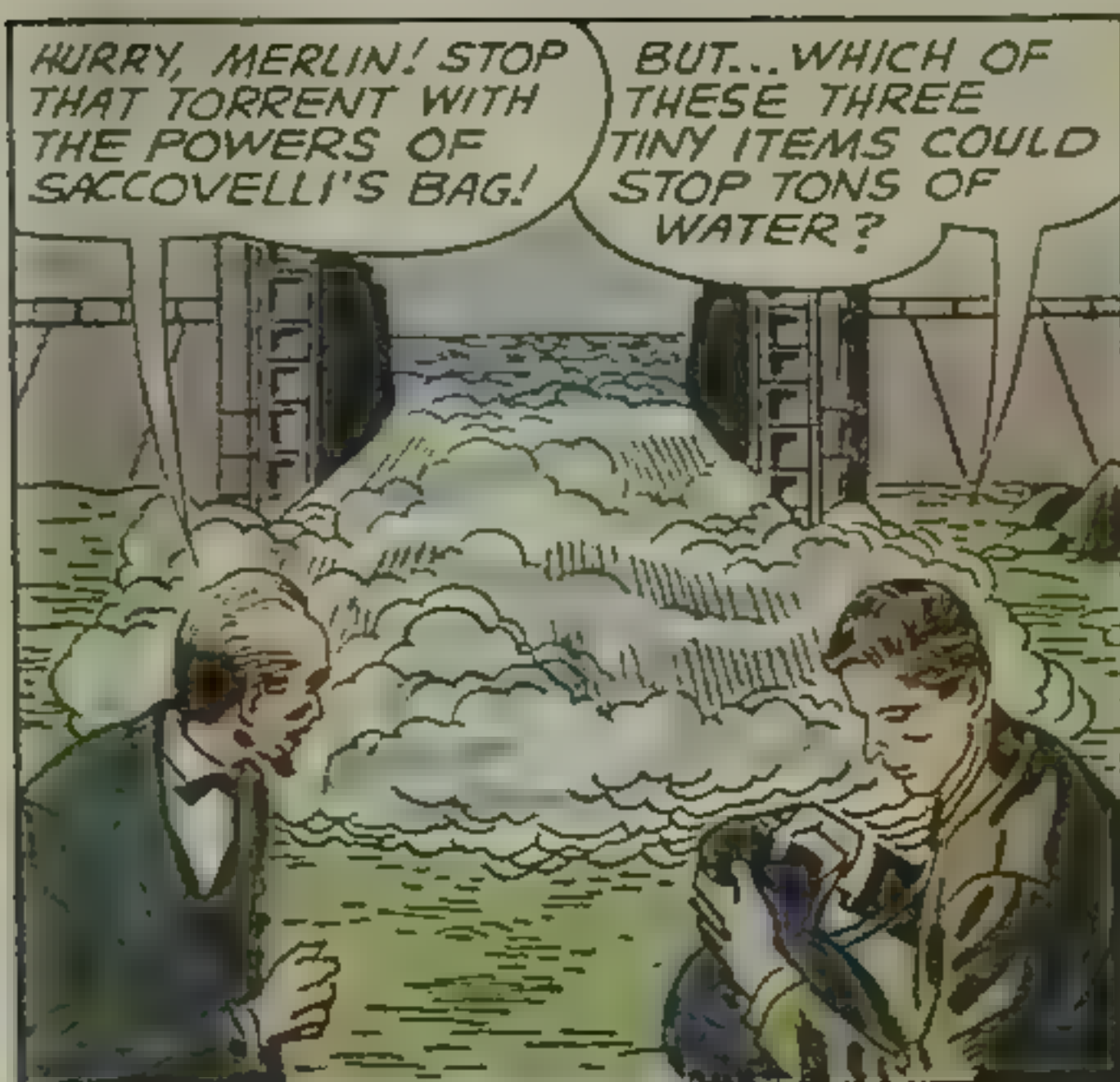
MARK HASN'T LONG TO FIND OUT--FOR AS THE PAIR MOVES ALONG BELOW A LARGE DIKE...

THOSE FLOODGATES... THEY'RE OPENING! THE CANAL WATERS ARE TUMBLING DOWN ON US! MORE OF EL LEONE'S POWERS!



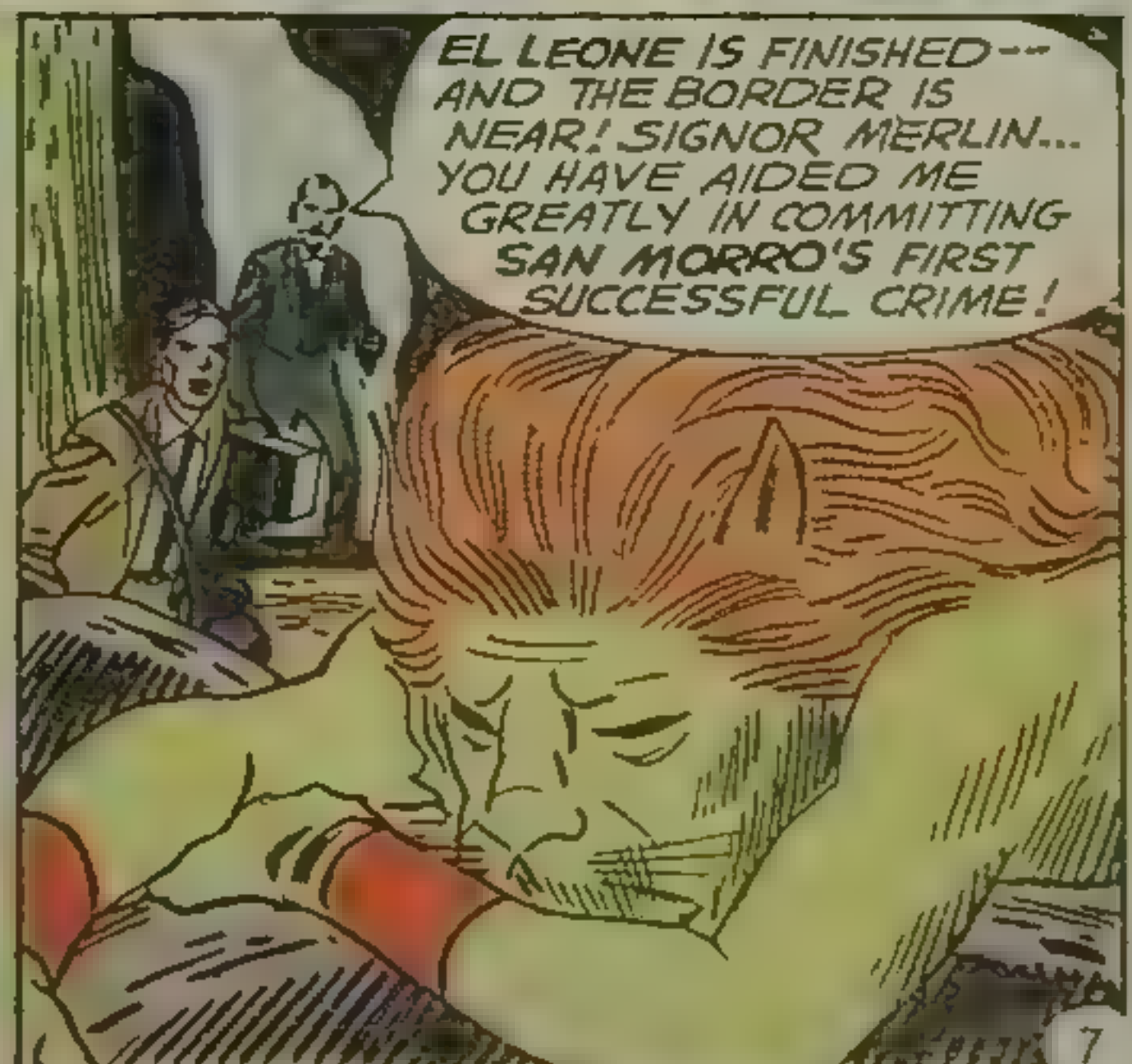
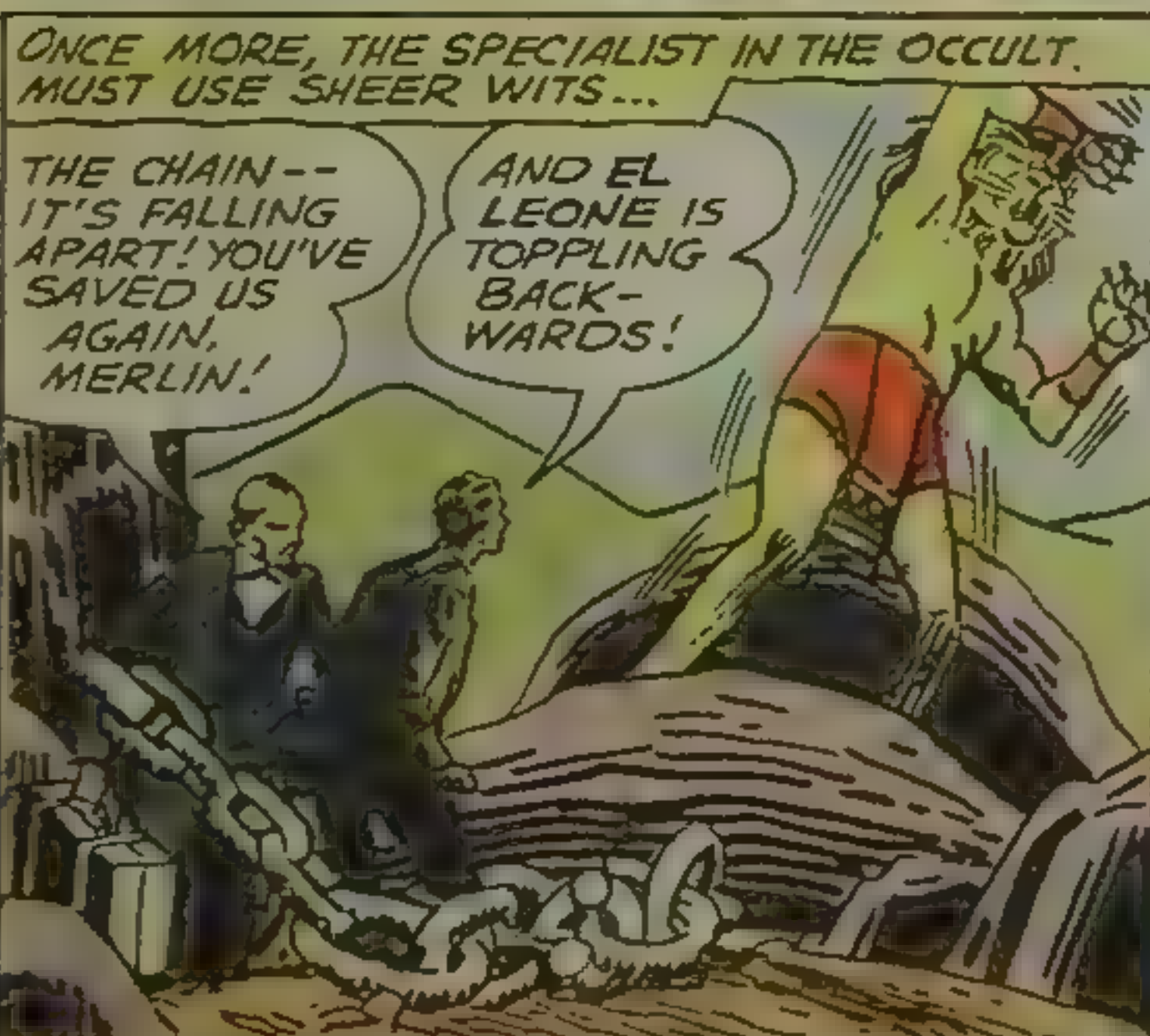
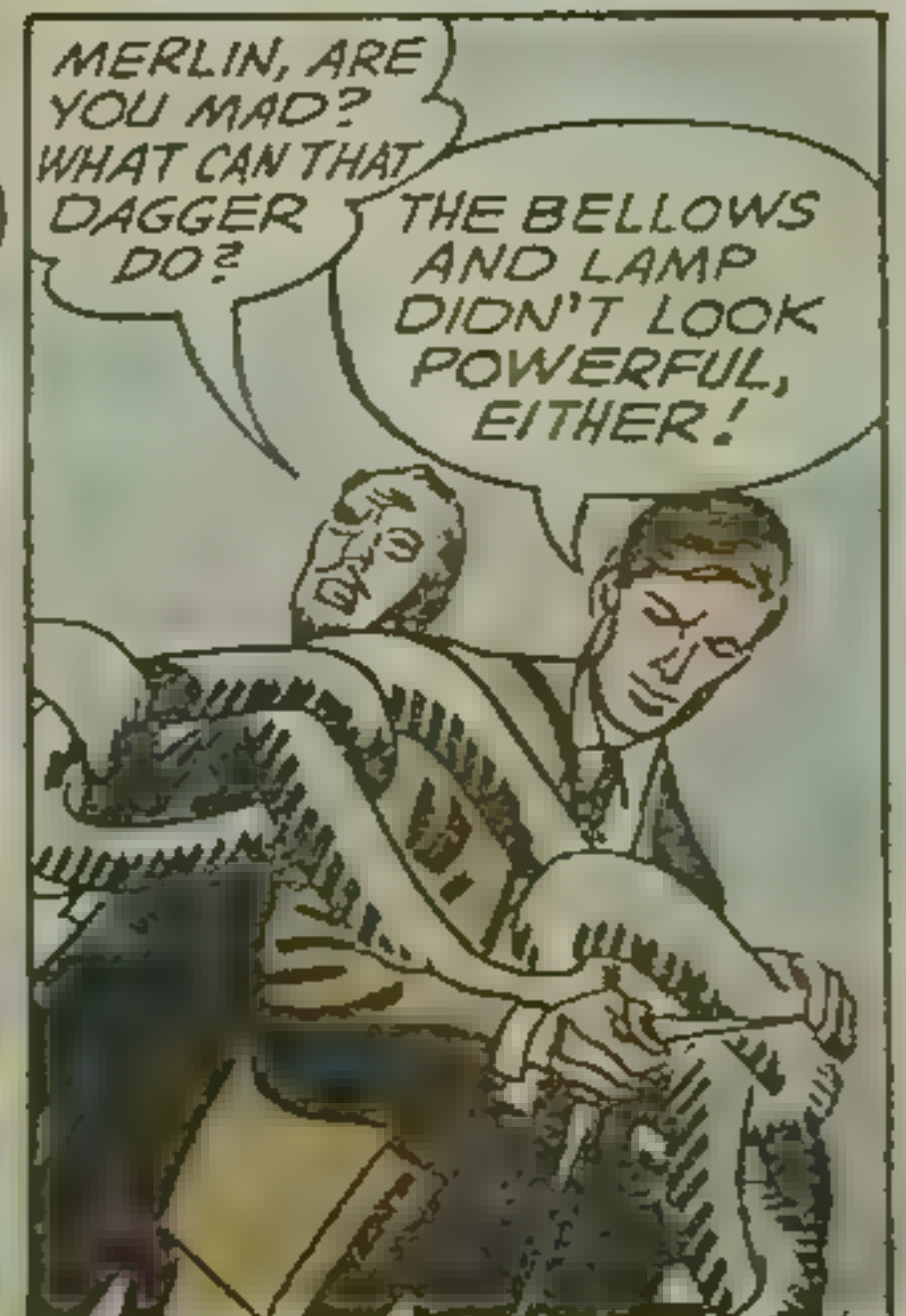
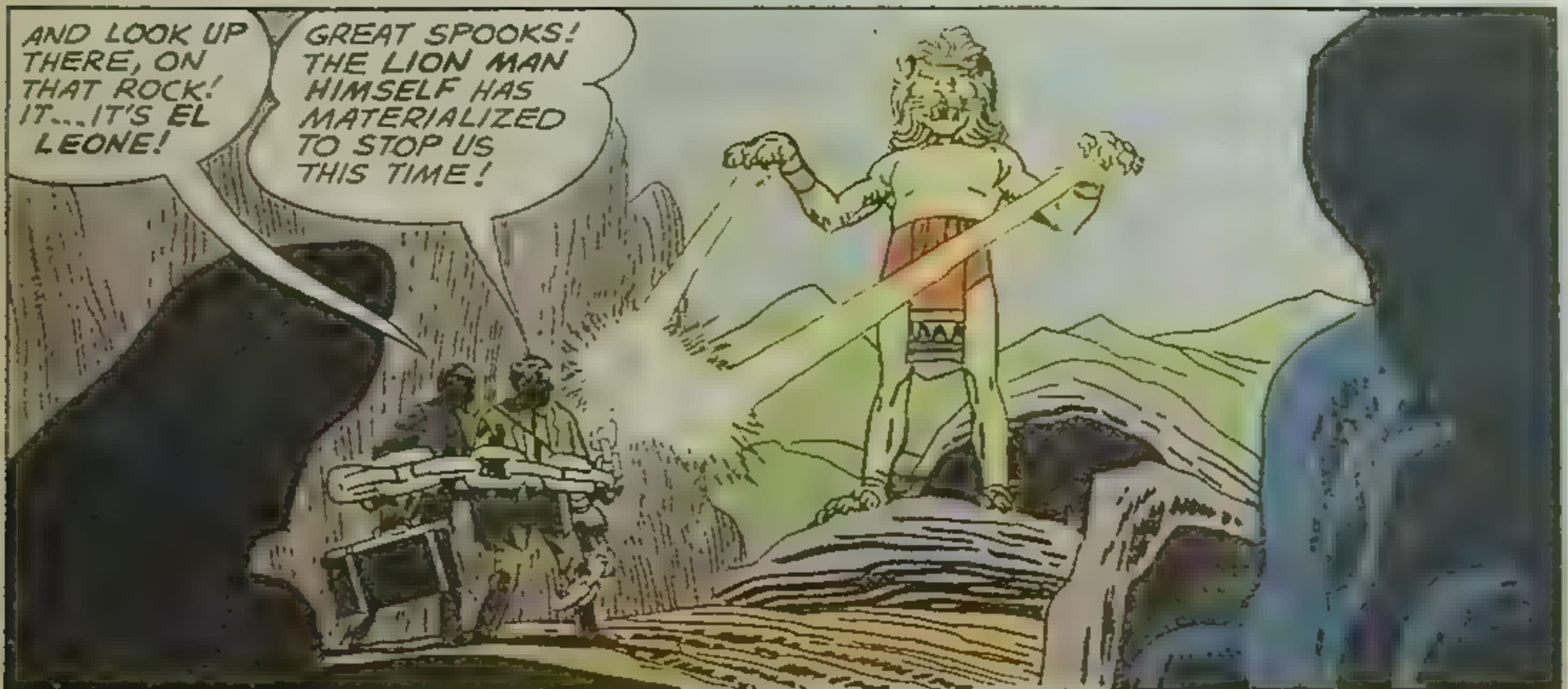


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BUT MOMENTS AFTER TASSINI DEPARTS...

MY POWERS... THEY RETURN, EVILDOER! YOUR DOOM IS CERTAIN NOW!

GREAT GHOSTS! IT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT I HELPED TASSINI AGAINST MY WILL -- AND NONE OF THESE CHARMS WOULD WORK AGAINST THE CREATURE ITSELF!

WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, THE LION-HEADED CRIME FOE SEIZES MARK MERLIN...

BUT AS IT HURLS HIM OVER THE CLIFF-EDGE...

THIS ROOT-- SAVED ME FROM GOING DOWN!-- WAIT... WHERE'VE I SEEN THIS BEFORE?

AS MARK'S MIND FLASHES BACK TO THE SORCERER'S DEN, HE RECALLS...

A DRAWING OF A ... LUPO ROOT! AND THEN SACCOVELLI'S WORDS! "CAN THE WOLF TAME THE LION? ONLY HE WHO DARES WILL KNOW!" WHAT CAN THAT MEAN?

AND NOW, AS MARK SEEMS TO FACE CERTAIN DOOM...

LUPO-- THAT MEANS WOLF IN THIS LANGUAGE! COULD THE SORCERER HAVE MEANT...

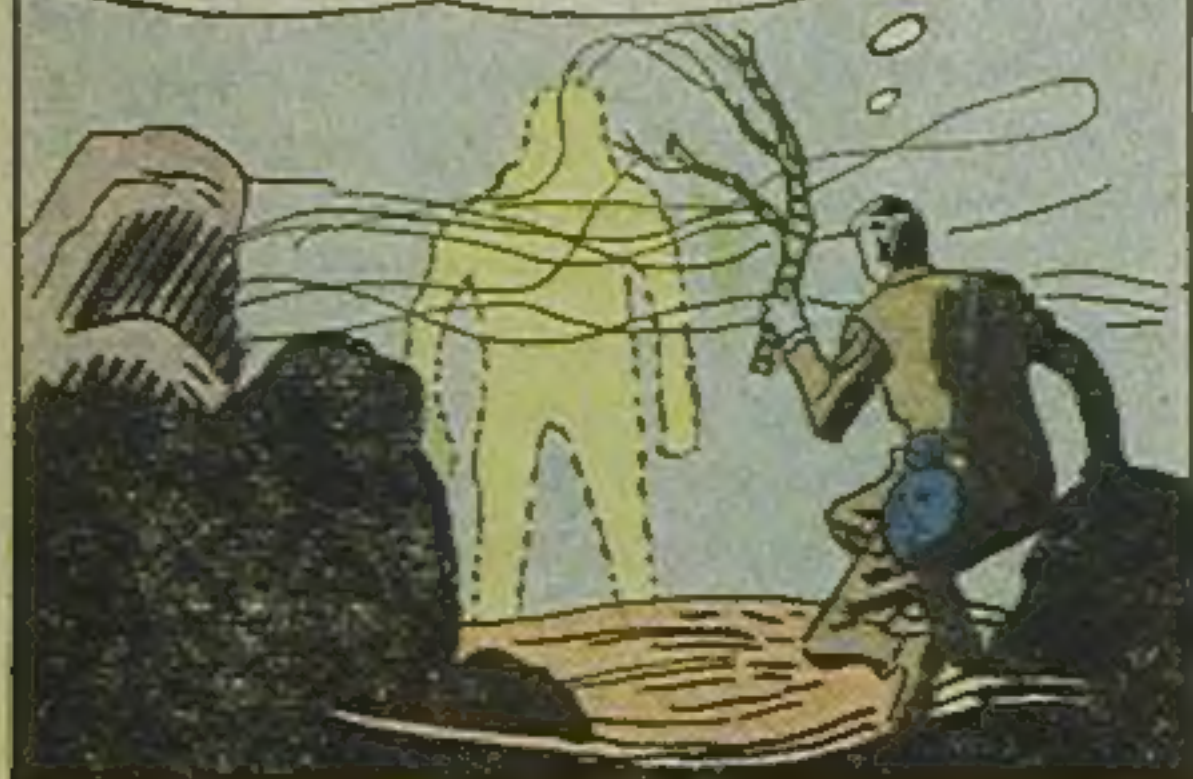
EVILDOERS MUST PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES!

ACTING ON A SUDDEN HUNCH, MARK CRUSHES THE ROOT IN HIS HANDS, AND...

SOME KIND OF AROMATIC FUMES COMING FROM IT! EL LEONE... FLINCHING BACK AWAY FROM IT!

AND THEN, BEFORE THE OCCULT
DETECTIVE'S ASTONISHED EYES...

EL LEONE IS VANISHING! THE "WOLF
ROOT" DID HAVE THE POWER TO
"TAME" THE "LION," AS OLD
SACCOVELLI HINTED! TROUBLE
IS, COUNT TASSINI'S GOTTEN
CLEAR AWAY BY NOW!



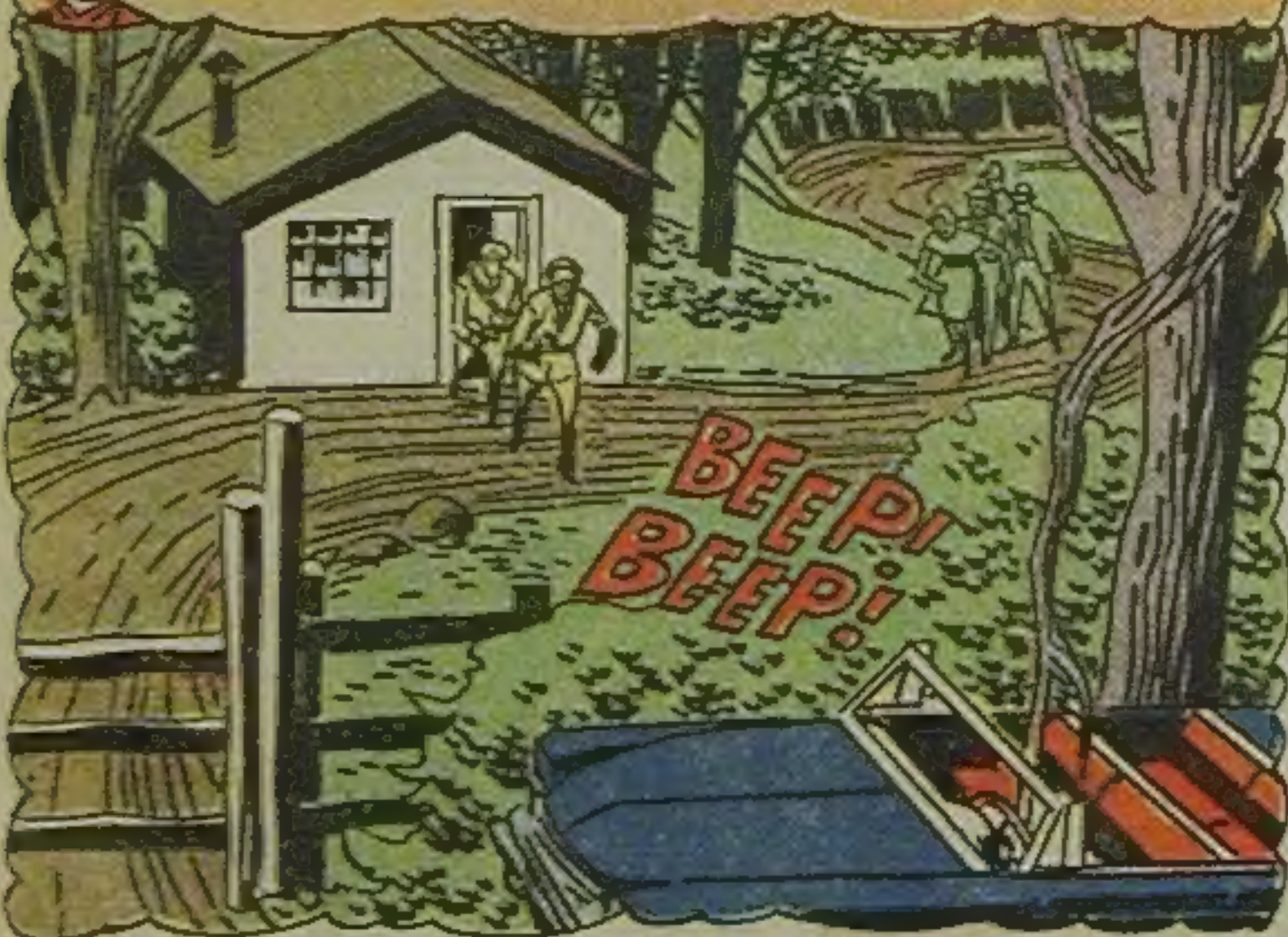
BUT WHEN MARK RACES TO THE NEARBY BORDER
STATION...

TASSINI CAPTURED?
ELSA, YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT! WHAT
HAPPENED?

THE STRANGEST THING,
MARK! TASSINI'S MEN
HAD A CAR WAITING JUST
BEYOND THE BORDER!



"AS WE APPROACHED IT, A TREE SUDDENLY
BENT DOWN AND PRESSED THE HORN
LIKE A HUMAN ARM..."



THE GUARDS
HEARD THE HORN--
INVESTIGATED--
AND STOPPED
TASSINI BEFORE
HE COULD CROSS
THE BORDER!

BUT... EL LEONE
VANISHED ON
THE CLIFF! COULD
HE HAVE COME
HERE, TO CAUSE
THAT FREAK
ACCIDENT? I GUESS
WE'LL NEVER KNOW--
BUT SAN MORRO
STILL REMAINS
CRIMELESS!



Now in a
MAGAZINE
OF HIS OWN!

AQUAMAN
THE KING OF THE
SEVEN SEAS AND HIS YOUNG ALLY,
AQUALAD

IN A THRILLING 3-PART NOVEL...

**"The INVASION of the
FIRE-TROLLS!"**

ON SALE
EVERYWHERE



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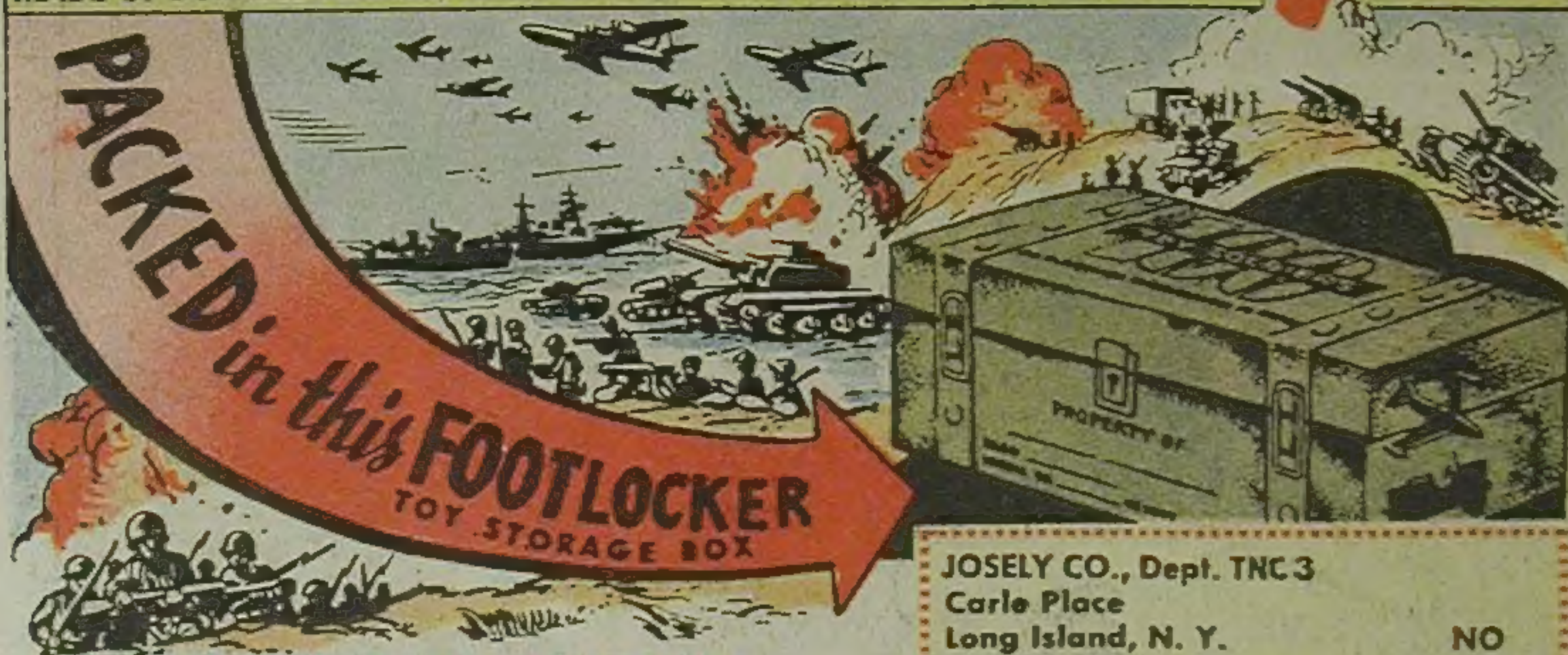
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100 TOY SOLDIERS \$1.25

MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4½"!



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 4 Tanks | 8 Machinegunners | 4 Bombers |
| 4 Jeeps | 8 Sharpshooters | 4 Trucks |
| 4 Battleships | 4 Infantrymen | 8 Jet Planes |
| 4 Cruisers | 8 Officers | 8 Cannon |
| 4 Sailors | 8 Waves | 4 Bazookamen |
| 4 Riflemen | 8 Wacs | 4 Marksmen |

JOSELY CO., Dept. TNC 3

Carle Place
Long Island, N. Y.

HERE'S MY \$1.25!

Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name

Address

City State

Canada and foreign orders send \$1.50 postal money order.

Are **YOU**
SKINNY
like I was?

a 90 lb.
weakling
who became
world's
strongest
man



George
Jowett
Champion
of
Champions
World's
Greatest
Builder
of
Champions
and REAL
HE-MEN
out of
SKINNY
and FLABBY
weaklings

SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS OF AGE

Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below with YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON IT
and I'll show **YOU** absolutely **FREE**

How to **GAIN** UP TO **50** LBS. OF **MIGHTY MUSCLES!**

or **LOSE** up to **50** LBS. of **UGLY, DANGEROUS FAT**

And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick,
Easy Methods How To

**ADD POWERFUL NEW
INCHES OF MUSCLES**
around YOUR ARMS,
CHEST, LEGS, etc.

How to **IMPROVE YOUR
HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.**

How to **BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE
IN ALL POPULAR SPORTS.**

How to **BEAT ANY BULLY.**

How to **DO FEATS of STRENGTH.**

How to be a **WINNER in EVERYTHING
YOU TACKLE.**

YES! Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a **MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES** — won a **BIG SILVER TROPHY**, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and \$100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man **STRENGTH**, his mighty **ARMS**, heroic **CHEST**, slender **WAIST**, rock-like **TORSO**, broad manly **BACK**, wide military **SHOULDERS**, new popularity with the **BOYS** and **GIRLS**. His winning drive in **ALL SPORTS**, his energy at work and studies.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes a day in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a **WORLD CHAMPION**.

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of **MIGHTY MUSCLES** to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR **CHEST**, BROADEN YOUR **BACK** and **SHOULDERS**. From **HEAD** to **HEELS** you'll gain **SIZE**, **POWER**, **LIGHTNING SPEED**, **ENDURANCE**. You'll become the **SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN** in **LOOKS** and **ACTS** — a **WINNER** in **EVERYTHING**, athletics, business, studies.

**DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES
BY THE GREATEST METHOD!**

Friend, I traveled the world, studying every secret to **PERFECTLY** develop your body. My "5-Way Progressive Power Method" is **TESTED-PROVED** by hundreds of thousands **LIKE YOU!** **SAVE YEARS**, hundreds of **DOLLARS!** Do as movie stars, champions — John Sill, Jim Norman, Tony Pascarella — did! Mail coupon NOW!

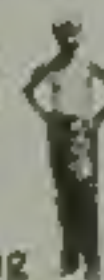
Pick the
kind of
**BODY YOU
WANT**
Check ALL Your
Needs —

I **GAINED**
60 LBS.
OF **SHAPELY
MIGHTY
MUSCLES**

This Can Be
YOU in a
Short
Time!

BEFORE

Mailing
Coupon
I was a
125 lb.,
6 ft.,
skinny
weakling



AFTER

I added 7 inches to
MY **CHEST**, 3½ IN-
CHES to EACH **ARM**.
No, Pal! You don't
have to be a chick-
en-chested skinny
weakling like I was
only a few weeks
ago.

Mailing
Coupon
185 lb.
**HEAD-TO-
TOE HE-MAN**
**POPULAR
ATHLETE**
You can
be, too!

This now **MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES**,
26 yr. old
teacher,
Wm. Butler,

says to YOU, "No mat-
ter **WHAT** your age, I ad-
vise you, **SEND** for the
**JOWETT WONDER PIC-
TURE COURSES** at once.

Under the World's
**GREATEST BODY-BUILD-
ER**, George Jowett, I now
have 18½" **ARMS**, a
52" **CHEST** my **STRENGTH**
has greatly improved. So have my sports. I
have won titles like "Mr. Virginian", "Mr.
State Y.M.C.A.", etc."



How would **YOU**
like to have 18½
inch **ARMS**, a 52
inch **CHEST** like
this Jowett pupil
NOW has?

I **BROKE A
WORLD'S
STRENGTH
RECORD!**

BEFORE

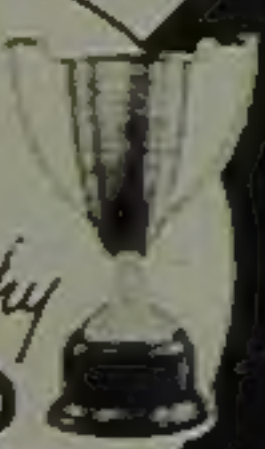


AFTER

JIM NORMAN
became Athlete of
the Year. Lifted
the front End of a 2700 lb.
Car. Quit being a bag-of-
bones weakling like I was.
In 10 minutes of fun a day,
**JOWETT CAN DO FOR YOU
ALL HE DID FOR ME!** I
gained 25 **TERRIFIC LBS.**
of **HANDSOME POWER-
PACKED MUSCLES.**

mailing
coupon
below—
like
you do
NOW.

WIN
A **BIG**
Silver Trophy
and **\$100**
IN CASH



MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW
and I'll Send You **FREE** these

5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED COURSES

**PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG
MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU**



Formerly \$5.00 each. **MILLIONS** were sold at \$1.00.
Send for them **ALL FREE**. Mail Coupon **BEFORE**
IT IS TOO LATE and you have to pay \$1.00 or \$5.00.
COUPON LIMITED to Men 14, 20, 30, 40 and over.

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING, Dept. NC-21 Great Neck, New York

Dear George: I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body
I want: ☐ I want to gain lbs. (fill in).

☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ Arms ☐ Chest ☐ Legs ☐ Shoulders
☐ I want to become a winning athlete ☐ I want **NEW PEP, NEW ENERGY**
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.

Also please mail to me **FREE** Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men plus all
5 **HE-MAN** Building Courses, now all in 1 volume. **ENCLOSED FIND 10c**
FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

DO NOT MAIL COUPON IF UNDER 14 YRS. OF AGE.

Name Age

Address

City Zone State

ANNOUNCING THE ALL-NEW DAISY B•B GUN

"SPITTIN' IMAGE"

of the GREAT MODEL 94 WINCHESTER
... RIFLE THAT WON THE GOLDEN WEST!

Here's the new kind of B•B Gun you want for that first or second Daisy—Model 1894 Lever-Matic! Looks, loads, cocks, aims like famous Model 94 Winchester. Real "Spittin' Image" features: slim-line carbine barrels, bands... 2-way lever cocking... side-loading and "safety" hammer. Own this accurate force-feed 40 shot style repeater; full 38". At sport, hardware, **\$12⁹⁵** department stores. Model 1894 only..



NEW 2-WAY COCKING
"Lever-Matic" gun lever cocks half-way on a forward motion—completes on return motion.



NEW SIDE LOAD PORT
B•Bs are quickly, easily loaded into port on right side of 1894's receiver plate. Fun to load!



NEW SAFETY
Gun won't fire unless hammer "thumb-cocked." Also fun using as a "clicker" gun!



NEW SIGHTS
Rear sight adjustable; front sight blade type; dependable and accurate aiming.

Rush post card now for Free Daisy B•B Gun Catalog picturing amazing new "1894" and other Daisys priced at only \$5⁹⁵ to \$14⁹⁵.



ASK DAD...
HE HAD A



DAISY B•B GUN

PRICES HIGHER IN CANADA

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

DAISY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, DEPT. 1612, ROGERS, ARKANSAS, U. S. A.
75 Years of Quality Leisure-Time Products

Also NEW!
**JUMBO
B•B TUBE**

First and only Jumbo Tube of 500 B•Bs! More for your money. Ask stores for Daisy's Jumbo "530" Tube only

25¢
Per Tube!

